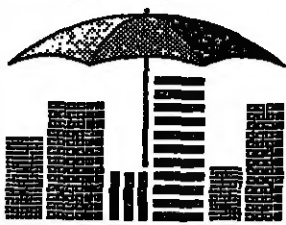


THE TIMES Saturday

Raining... Philip Norman faces the New York monsoon with nothing more than a rickety umbrella-la



...champions Beryl Downing looks at the winners of the 1984 Design Council awards

White... Spanish whites, the wines that hide their lights under a bushel

...horses Michael Phillips previews the 2,000 Guineas

Violence in Warsaw

Massed units of Polish riot police last night dispersed Solidarity demonstrators in the centre of Warsaw after a series of violent clashes. Thousands of Solidarity supporters, chanting anti-government slogans, marched through Polish cities yesterday to mark the anniversary of the 1971 liberal constitution. Earlier story, page 6

Shops face glue fines

The Government has indicated that it would be prepared to support a private member's Bill aimed at prosecuting shopkeepers who sell glue to youngsters under the age of 16. Page 3

Not so healthy

Few of the costly treatments offered by health farms have any lasting effect, except on one's purse, according to a *Witch* report. Page 3

Bank pledge

Midland Bank is taking vigorous steps to stem the losses of its US subsidiary, Mr John Harris, chief executive of Midland's international division, said. Page 17

Rail pressure

The two main rail unions are planning to put pressure on British Rail to increase its 4 per cent pay offer. Page 2

Teasing ban

The city of Delhi has sent a Bill for endorsement in the Indian Parliament outlawing sexual harassment of women, known in India as "eve-teasing". Page 7

Hostages well

The 16 Britons about to be released by the Unita rebels in Angola are well, according to a released Portuguese prisoner who saw them last week. Page 6

Bekaa quiet

Diplomatic tension between Israel and Syria over the capture of three Israeli soldiers in northern Lebanon has not affected the ceasefire in the Bekaa Valley. Page 6

Classic victory

Pebbles, trained by Clive Brittain and ridden by Phillip Robinson, won the 1,000 Guineas, the season's first classic race, at Newmarket yesterday. Page 23

Sangster to sue

Robert Sangster, the world's leading racehorse owner and breeder, is to sue Lloyd's of London for over £4m. Lloyd's are refusing to pay Mr Sangster's claim over the death of his stallion, Golden Fleece. Page 23

Leader page, 11
Letters: On Ireland, from Mr Peter Jay; video Bill, from Mr J. Smith, QC; and Mrs Mary Whitehouse; living standards, from Mrs V J Bentley.
Leading articles: Irish forum; The Pope in the Far East; Libyan mission in London.
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A new way forward for South Africa: Egypt's 'honest' election; Shirley Williams on the New Ireland Forum report; Spectrum: silencing the last dissent; Friday page: the polo girls; Obituary, page 12
May McAvoy, Mr W J O'Brien

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Fresh clashes as Ravenscraig steps up coal convoys

- British Steel stepped up its coal lorry convoys through striking miners outside Ravenscraig steelworks bringing fresh clashes
- Lancashire and Yorkshire also had their trouble spots. More than 1,000 pickets gathered outside Golborne Colliery, Lancashire, and in South Nottinghamshire
- 2,000 invaded the pit village of Cotgrave.
- In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher dubbed Mr Kinnoch "the strikers' friend" over the attempted blockade of Ravenscraig
- Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the CBI, said in London: "There is no room for compromise on the part of the coal board".

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

There were fresh clashes on the picket lines outside Ravenscraig steelworks in Scotland yesterday as British Steel stepped up its coal lorry convoys through the striking miners.

Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners, and the area secretary, Mr Eric Clarke, were on the picket line outside Ravenscraig yesterday as lorries carrying coal from the Hunterston terminal thundered through with supplies regarded as vital by unions and management at the Motherwell complex.

There were five arrests as the first wave of lorries went in during the morning. But there were fewer than 100 pickets and they were outnumbered two to one by the police.

Trouble also flared in Nottinghamshire and Lancashire, where picketing increased sharply and more pits were prevented from working normally. As the crisis worsened, leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers reported deadlock in tentative peace contacts with the National Coal Board.

Top-level union officials meet in Sheffield today to choose a date for the mass demonstration intended to bring the Nottinghamshire coalfield to a standstill. *The Times* understands that it will almost certainly be arranged for Wednesday.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the union, said last night: "There is certainly no willingness on the part of this union to sit down and talk about closing pits".

His reaffirmation of the union hard line came as the coal board chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, gave a warning that only "dedicated action" by management was overcoming the threat to pits posed by "the present pointless dispute".

In Lancashire yesterday, police made eight arrests outside Golborne Colliery, where more than 1,000 pickets had gathered. Coal was being produced at two of the eight pits in the county after some of the heaviest picketing since the strike began. The number of men reporting for work fell from 1,775 to 1,509.

In Nottinghamshire, the board said that all but one of the 25 pits in the coalfield were producing, but the union said that up to 10,000 of the 30,000 pitmen were on strike. About 700 local strikers marched from Linby pit to Hucknall Colliery, near by and predicted many more such demonstrations.

In the south of the coalfield, more than 2,000 pickets, many from Yorkshire, evaded police road blocks and invaded the pit village of Cotgrave. Police reinforcements were rushed in and there were 18 arrests as

miners reporting for work ran a gauntlet of abuse and stones. About 25 Kent miners were arrested at the non-union port of Wivenhoe in Essex, where imported coal is being moved out in lorries.

But though the tension increased in the coalfields and steelmaking areas, Mr MacGregor said that he was prepared to sit out the strike "indefinitely". He agreed that it was time for compromise, but insisted that it would not come from him.

"It is time they made some overtures to me", he said in Blackpool after addressing a conference of British Association of Colliery Management.

"It is time they made some overtures to me. I did not start the strike, so I cannot determine how long it will last. It will end when the people who have decided not to work come back to work."

Responding to suggestions that Mr Scargill, union president, would not back down, he added: "That makes two of us. My attitude has to be a reflection of Mr Scargill's attitude. That is the way bargaining takes place."

"If I see any sign of intelligent bargaining on his part, I will respond. I have not seen any so far. I have not heard anything to negotiate about. Nobody comes to see me. I see no reason for

CBI firmly behind MacGregor

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

No compromise, says Beckett

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday reiterated the unconditional support of his members for the National Coal Board in the miners' dispute. There was no room for compromise on the part of Mr Ian MacGregor, its chairman, he said.

The NCB was recruiting young miners in the coming years, and there was nothing in Mr MacGregor's plans for the industry that did not give anything other than a superb future for coal.

Sir Terence, speaking to labour and industrial journalists in London, said that a rapid survey of industry by the CBI in the past few days had confirmed that apart from the main steelworks of the British Steel Corporation the country's manufacturing industry was unaffected by the miner's strike.

However, if the pit stoppage were prolonged Britain's seven big energy-using sectors, which include steel, chemicals, glass and paper, could be hit severely, he said.

Those industries could lose more jobs as a result of the

increasingly uncompetitive price of energy than those under threat in the mining industry. One way to reduce the price of electricity was to get a lower price for coal, and the whole of industry supported the position adopted by Mr MacGregor.

However, one of the more perverse impacts of the strike was the threat to the BSC's works at Ravenscraig. Some of those closed the only effect is less demand for coal," Sir Terence said. "It will exacerbate the problems of excess capacity and costs in the coal industry."

Esso forces petrol price rise to fail

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A combination of the largest petrol company and the small independent companies forced Shell, BP and Texaco to call off a price rise of almost 4p a gallon yesterday only hours after it was implemented.

Shell, which has 20 per cent of the market and BP, with 14 per cent, said that increases announced on Monday and Tuesday were being cancelled. The term used was "re-aligned".

The companies bowed to market pressure caused by Esso, which has marginally more outlets than Shell, refusing, in turn, to raise its basic price from 134.1p to 137.8p.

Texaco, with an 8 per cent market share, brought its price back to 134p after less than 24 hours at 137.8p.

The companies raised prices because of the strength of the dollar against the pound - petrol is bought in dollars - and because, they claim, petrol sales have hardly covered costs.

Esso, which intends to remain market leader, felt market forces would make the price rise difficult to maintain.

At present petrol in many

areas is selling at under 130p due to smaller companies and independent retail chains buying at low on the spot prices in their fight to increase market share. Some supermarket chains are also using petrol as a loss leader.

The big companies have been subsidising their dealers to help them match these prices.

Petrol on the Rotterdam spot market has fallen this week from \$276 a tonne to \$272 a tonne. Independent retailers with low overheads and no running costs still make a profit at a pump price of less than 130p.

However, Shell garages in London still offered petrol at 137.8p yesterday, though BP and Texaco garages had commonly cut back to 134.1p.

One of the most expensive petrol stations was a Gulf garage at Finsbury Square, in the City of London, which charged 139.2p, though the manager said the price had deterred hardly any of his customers. 90 per cent of whom were companies. A total station at Hendon, North London, was one of the cheapest, at £181.9p.

N Sea plan will secure 40,000 jobs

A consortium led by Shell UK is to spend £550m developing two North Sea gas fields. More than 70 per cent of the work will be placed in Britain, securing the jobs of an estimated 40,000 workers.

Contracts worth £33m have already been placed. By the end of the year, a further £100m worth of bids will have been sought.

The fields, called Sean South and Sean North, lie 66 miles off the Norfolk coast and are expected to feed 600 million cubic feet of gas a day into the British Gas network when they begin producing in mid-1986.

A further boost was given to the British energy sector yesterday when Sir Peter Walters, chairman of British Petroleum, announced that a record £2,000m would be spent on improving and expanding the business this year.

He told the BP annual meeting that the group plans to develop four gas fields in the southern North Sea. Together they should yield nearly as much energy as the Magnus field, which began production last year. Details, page 17



A policeman gets to grips with a picket at Wivenhoe, Essex, yesterday.



Mr McGahey remonstrating with a television crew at Ravenscraig yesterday.

Irish Forum case launched worldwide

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Irish Republic's government launched a worldwide diplomatic initiative to promote the New Ireland Forum yesterday as Unionists from Northern Ireland flew to the United States to defend their position.

Delegations from the rival official and Democratic Unionist parties are travelling to Washington to present their case, making it clear that any political progress must be made internally within Northern Ireland. Both are urging the Social Democratic and Labour Party to return to the north and begin a dialogue with their fellow Ulstermen.

There is disappointment at the Northern Ireland Office at the Forum's findings, though it is recognized how far the nationalist parties have compromised. But the Forum's failure to produce much practical evidence of how to cope with the reality that Unionists will have nothing to do with any of their constitutional proposals, has surprised officials.

The muted response from Unionists indicating their confidence, and the unreality of the Forum's wish for a united Ireland, is seen as making it easier for some form of dialogue to begin, both within the province and between London and Dublin.

The document, emblazoned with the Union Jack proposes legislative and executive devolution, with the rights of the minority fully respected. Meanwhile, Dr FitzGerald is being urged to renew his constitutional crusade in an effort to make the Republic a freer and open pluralistic society. Privately, some Unionist politicians and civil servants are disappointed that the prime minister's ideas to change attitudes within his country have been submerged, and that he has apparently moved to a much "greener" position.

Leading article, Letters, page 11

Record £484,000 for shield

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A huge silver-gilt shield, with naked classical figures in relief including in banquets, processions, harvests and other activities, became the most expensive item of antique silver ever sold at auction when it fetched £484,000 to Sotheby's yesterday.

It was designed by John Flaxman, the sculptor, following the description of Achilles' shield given in Homer's *Iliad* and made by the royal goldsmiths, Rundell, Bridge and Rundell, in 1822.

The shield was described by *The Times* in 1976 as "the most wonderful" of all Flaxman's work, displaying "imagination, nice judgment and felicitous execution".

The shield had been sent for sale by the Duke of Northumberland, whose ancestor, the 3rd Duke, had bought it from Rundell's. Sotheby's pre-sale estimate of its value was £80,000 to £120,000.

The price reflects the impact of one significant collector on the silver market, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Al Tajir, the London Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and one of the world's richest men.

The controversial ambassador, whose fortune has been estimated at around £2,000m, now owns most of the important silver appearing at auction during the past five years.

Most of the important items illustrated in "The Al Tajir Collection of Silver and Gold", a catalogue printed for the ambassador earlier this year,

were bought at auction by the London dealer, Mr Jack Koopman.

The shield was bought by Koopman and Armitage yesterday, and Mr Koopman's partner, Mr Rahim Sadaat, of Armitage Antiques, said he expected Mr Al Tajir would be "first in the row" to whom the shield would be offered.

Mr Sadaat stressed that when he and Mr Koopman bought together at auction they never bought on commission for specific collectors.

The joint purchases of the two dealers accounted for more than £1.5m yesterday, or about three-quarters of the sale's total earnings. It seems likely that the most important lots, at least, will find their way into Mr Al Tajir's collection.

Banned Libyans sought by police

By Richard Dowden

As the Libyan People's Bureau was finally handed over to the Saudi Arabians by the anti-terrorist squad, police throughout Britain were yesterday searching for four Libyans who are to be deported and for members of a Libyan gang wanted in connection with bombings in London and Manchester in March.

Yesterday it was announced that two Libyans had been arrested by Sussex police, and are awaiting deportation and two Libyans appeared in court at Lambeth, south London, charged with conspiring to cause explosions in London in March.

The two facing deportation are Mmr Abdul Razzaq, aged 25, and Mr Sami Saleh Lataief. It is thought by exiled Libyans that Mr Razzaq tried to reorganize the Libyan students after the recent expulsion of the four-man Revolutionary Committee which took over the People's Bureau in February.

From the headquarters of the Jamahiriya Student Congress in Ennismore Gardens, Mr Razzaq, who was on the five-man committee which organized the students, tried to contact Libyan students throughout Britain and rally them to the Gaddafi cause.

Mr Razzaq came to Britain in 1979 and enrolled in a three-year course at Chelsea College of Aeronautical and Automobile Engineering at Shoreham in Sussex. Yesterday the principal of the college Mr Edmund Greenwood said: "There was nothing exceptional about him when he was a student. He was a very pleasant fellow. He was not terribly bright but he was very courteous." He left in 1982 with a certificate but failed to get a diploma.

Mr Greenwood also confirmed that Mr Najib Hussain was a student at the college and was expected back this term. Mr Hussain is the secretary of the Jamahiriya Student Committee but is thought to be back in Libya at present. According to Libyan sources Mr Hussain recruited both Mr Razzaq and Mr Ali Ahmed Mubash, one of the Libyans facing bombing conspiracy charges, onto the committee.

The other members are Abdullah Bibas, formerly of Aston and Cardiff Universities and Khalifa Sefow, a biology student in Manchester.

Mr Sami Saleh Lataief, the other Libyan arrested yesterday and facing deportation, was also involved in student activities particularly in making contact with other foreign students in Britain.

● The Irish Government yesterday expressed "grave concern" at Colonel Gaddafi's comments that he was prepared to provide support for the IRA. Drive to free Britons, page 2

Leading article, page 11



We'll also help wipe away Susan's fears.

The children who come to our homes have usually reached the depths of despair. So it can take months and often years of love and dedicated care to help them through their trauma.

Unfortunately, it also takes increasingly large amounts of money. All at a time when cases like Susan's are becoming both more complicated and more frequent.

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Address: _____

The Children's Society

Health service to have general managers before end of next year

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is to go ahead with plans to introduce general managers throughout the National Health Service, as recommended in the Griffiths report.

With the report due to be debated in the Commons today, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, is expected to give few details of the Government's decision.

But ministers are believed to have decided to introduce general managers, first at regional level, then in health districts and finally at unit, or hospital level throughout the service. The process is expected to be completed by the end of next year at the latest.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, gave no details away yesterday when addressing a conference of health service administrators on the report. But the tone of his comments made it clear that although some detailed decisions have

still to be taken, ministers intend to act swiftly.

Detailed guidance will be issued by the end of the month, he said. He was critical of the fact that it took two years for the 1982 reorganization of the NHS to work through, saying that the intention was not to introduce "some autocratic chief executives" but that "somebody at each level should actually discharge the general management function".

Health service administrators believe that the general managers will be introduced as a full-time, not part-time post, although at unit level occasional exceptions may be made to allow a consultant, for example, to continue some operating if he was not appointed as the general manager.

The job will be on a renewable contract - probably three years - and in the first instance administrators expect

some extra salary, probably £2,000 to £3,000 a year for the general manager post.

In some cases, the general manager will be an additional appointment to the management team, with savings he is expected to make through greater efficiency more than paying for his salary. In others, for example, where an administrator rather than a treasurer, nurse or doctor is appointed to the job, a direct replacement may not be recruited.

Ministers have started implementing the Griffiths report within the Department of Health already, with the search under way for a chairman for the new NHS management board, who will be an executive director general for the NHS.

The changes are also likely to involve an appreciable reduction of the 2,500 civil servants within the department, where numbers have been cut by 20 per cent since the government took office.



"Married Love": The sculptor Oscar Nemon examining his bronze study of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill in a Basingstoke foundry. The statue, funded by the English Speaking Union, will be unveiled on May 12 in Kansas City, Missouri, which is near Fulton where Sir Winston made his "Iron Curtain" speech. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Railmen set for pay claim action

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The two main rail unions were drawing up plans last night to bring pressure on British Rail to increase a 4 per cent pay offer and were considering calling industrial action.

Meetings of the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen were due to be completed this morning after which union leaders will announce their decision.

The executives were discussing several possibilities including referring the rejection of the claim to Lord McCarthy's arbitration tribunal, calling an all-out strike or lesser forms of industrial action, including selective strikes or go-slow action.

British Rail has insisted that the 4 per cent offer is contingent on immediate agreement to implement three

productivity issues, removal of second men from locomotive cabs, the introduction of driver-only operation of freight trains and extending the driver-only operation from the controversial Bedford-St Pancras commuter line to the suburban service from Kings Cross to east Hertfordshire.

The unions had submitted "substantial" claims, linked to a call for a shorter working week and extra holidays. It is thought that the unions may want to refer the disagreement to the McCarthy tribunal as a first step.

● The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' policy-making conference at Eastbourne yesterday rejected a call for a 4.75 per cent claim and another for £20 a week rise for two million engineering industry workers (the Press Association reports).

Welsh steel plant clash looms as leaders meet

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The union movement was heading yesterday for another Ravenscraig-style clash between pitmen and steelworkers at the profitable Llanwern steelworks in Cwent.

Representatives in the National Union of Mineworkers and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation were meeting last night in a last-ditch attempt to thrash out a compromise over the future of the plant.

Steelworkers' leaders made clear that unless coke is allowed into the plant by miners within the next 48 hours, they would accept strike-breaking convoys of coal like their colleagues at Ravenscraig.

Both the management and confederation representatives at Llanwern are concerned that unless the deliveries are slowed through there could be permanent damage to the works with a risk to 4,200 jobs.

Union talk of the possibility of an explosion on the scale of Flixborough some years ago was discounted by the British Steel Corporation, but there is little doubt that the safety problem is increasing. A village near by was cleared last week.

Last Saturday's instruction by Mr Arthur Scargill to "tighten the noose" in the coal strike has led to a tougher attitude from miners.

Normally the works, which is understood to have made £5m profit last year, needs 26,000 tonnes of coke and coal a week.

No reliable figures are available for how much has been getting through during the eight-week stoppage, but steel union sources say a vital consignment of 13,500 tonnes promised by the National Union of Mineworkers on Tuesday has not yet been released.

New law proposed to stop price fraud

By Robin Young

A Government working party has recommended that complicated legislation on traders' claimed price reductions and bargain offers should be replaced with a comprehensive prohibition against misleading pricing.

In answer to a parliamentary question yesterday Mr Alex Fletcher, the minister for corporate and consumer affairs, said the working party's central recommendation was that a general law against false and misleading pricing should be supported by a statutory code of practice giving detailed guidance about individual practices.

The Department of Trade and Industry is consulting interested parties on whether this is the right way to tackle the question.

In comments on the report published yesterday, Mr Fletcher questioned whether a general offence backed by a statutory code would not leave traders uncertain about what was permissible.

An alternative, he suggested, would be that the proposed code of practice should be enacted as part of the legislation.

The existing legislation is section 11 of the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, and the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1979.

The Trade Descriptions Act requires traders who claim to have reduced a price to state a price they have charged for at least 28 days in the previous six months. This is widely circumvented by the display of disclaimers.

The Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, imposing detailed controls on the use of both express and implied price comparisons for goods and services, has been widely criticized as being too complex to understand.

Yesterday Mr Fletcher said the Government was not committed to new legislation and that if the majority recommendation was accepted he thought any code of practice should be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

He also raised the possibility, not suggested in the report, that any new offence should be tried in a magistrates' court.

Mr Fletcher also indicated that his initial reaction was against a suggestion that Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, should have an enforcement role under new legislation.

NHS home sale share-out plan

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities are likely to be allowed to keep only a proportion of the money they raise by selling empty National Health Service flats and houses under government moves to be announced shortly.

The remainder is likely to be redistributed around the health service, or possibly used to fund local authority and Housing Corporation schemes through housing associations to provide better quality and "fair rent" accommodation earmarked for NHS staff.

The Rayner scrutiny on NHS accommodation, which ministers plan to publish shortly, says that by historical accident, some authorities own large amounts of property, others very little. If authorities kept all the proceeds of sale, those with large stocks would be unfairly rewarded.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has said there may have to be some "averaging" of the proceeds, with the report recommending that authorities

should keep at least 50 per cent.

According to the report, the health service owns more than 8,500 flats and houses that are off hospital sites and are potentially saleable. Some are extremely valuable, one house being sold for £600,000, and at a minimum that stock is worth £170m and possibly much more.

The remainder of the 112,000 units of accommodation includes about 12,000 further houses and flats, with 70,000 places in bedsitters and hostel-type blocks.

About a quarter of the property, the report says, probably has little or no market value, being integrated within hospital buildings. About another third consists of free-standing purpose built accommodation on hospital sites. The remainder is off-site.

At any one time approaching one-fifth of the accommodation is empty - the ministers' first target in a sell-off - with the vacancy rate ranging from 4 per

cent to 33 per cent in the 47 authorities that took part in the exercise.

The report recommends cutting the number of places from 112,000 to about 39,000. Permanent staff occupying property who are unlikely to move should be offered it at the same discounts that local councils offer on council houses to tenants.

Charges are slowly rising over a four-year period to an "economic rent", but the report argues that charges do not reflect the true cost of providing accommodation.

Rayner recommendations on NHS accommodation	
Main staff groups housed at present	
Student nurses	35,000 (44%)
Other nurses	29,000 (67%)
Junior doctors	11,000 (62%)
Recommended provision	
1st year student nurses only	29,000
Junior doctors	8,000
Others	2,000

*As percentage of total staff in each category; figures are approximate.

New drive to free detained Britons

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

British and Italian diplomats in Tripoli are said to be launching a fresh initiative to secure the release of two British businessmen, seized by Libyan police without explanation last month.

The move follows pressure on the Foreign Office from the men's employers, who are said to be increasingly concerned. Representatives of Poole Intadrill, which employs Mr John Campbell, called on Mr Ray Whitney, Under Secretary at the Foreign Office yesterday.

The other man is Mr Douglas Ledingham, Tripoli manager of British Caledonian. The company says it has had no official news of the men since they were arrested over two weeks ago, on the first day of the siege in St James's Square, London.

They are understood to be detained in a building not far from the empty British embassy, in conditions which are said to be "one up" on those in prison.

There is no suggestion of any ill-treatment. Mr Ledingham has been allowed regular calls to his wife, who has now returned

with her four children to Britain.

But repeated attempts by Mr Oliver Miles, the British Ambassador, and, since the weekend, by diplomats from the Italian embassy which is representing British interests, have failed to uncover the reasons for their arrest and continuing detention.

At first it was thought Colonel Gaddafi was seizing hostages to help ensure that those inside the Libyan People's Bureau would be allowed to leave Britain without being charged with the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. But there seems little reason for them to remain in custody, in the absence of any formal prosecution.

It is understood the two British diplomats still in Tripoli to look after consulate matters, such as those involving Mr Ledingham and Mr Campbell, are now making a concerted attempt to get consular access to the two men, and press once more for their release.

Geoffrey Smith, page 5

Remands for Libyans in bomb case

By Richard Dowden

Two Libyans were remanded in custody yesterday facing charges in connection with six bomb incidents in London in March. (Richard Dowden writes).

All Ahmed Mubash, aged 22, of no fixed address, was arrested on April 26 at Heathrow airport. Ali El Ghabour, aged 44, who gave his address as the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, central London, a businessman, was arrested on March 10 and was making his eighth court appearance.

Both are accused of conspiracy to cause explosions before March 9 in the greater London area, and conspiring with others to place five bombs in London, two of which exploded on March 10, one at Marina's newsagency in Queen's way, the other at the El-Oberge club in Berkeley Street, central London.

They were remanded in custody until May 10.

New code for solicitors

Draft professional standards for solicitors, outlining expected behaviour on communicating with clients, estimating costs and giving clients information, were published by the Law Society yesterday (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

The standards, yet to be approved by the society's council, have been sent to local law societies and other interested bodies for comment. Solicitors must tell clients at the first interview in "simple terms" what the case involves, how it will be dealt with and the immediate steps to be taken.

Teachers urged to claim less

By Colin Hughes

Teachers' unions taking industrial action were urged yesterday by the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), which has a "no strikes or disruption" policy, to lower their pay claim in the hope of settling the pay dispute.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the association, which has 24,000 members, said he believed the employers would agree to go to arbitration if the teachers' union collectively agreed to reduce their claim below 10 per cent.

So far the lowest claim the unions have mentioned is 12.5 per cent, made informally as a possible starting point for arbitration. The employers rejected it as too high.

Mr Dawson said he was making his request to the other unions because he feared the teachers' action would escalate beyond control and would eventually damage the prospects of pupils sitting examinations this summer.

He said he knew of one special school in Yorkshire where handicapped children were going unfed at lunchtime, because teachers refused to supervise lunches.

Mr Douglas McAvoy, chairman of the teachers' panel of unions, and deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), said: "The level of their collective claim only if employers categorically guaranteed that they were willing to accept arbitration."

Hotels must take out more TV licences

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The hotel and tourist industry reacted with disappointment last night to government proposals to make hotels with 100 rooms pay an extra £782 a year for television licences.

They will have to take out 18 licences instead of one. Establishments with 200 rooms will need 38 licences, costing an extra £1,702 a year. But hotels with 15 rooms or less will continue to pay the single colour licence fee of £46, due to go up next year.

The changes will end what the Home Office called yesterday the "undesirable anomaly" which has allowed all the television sets on hotel premises to be covered by one licence.

In line with an undertaking given last year, the Government is to make disabled people in residential homes eligible for 5p concessionary licences on the same basis as pensioners in similar homes.

The British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers Association said that the new scheme would mean considerable extra costs being passed on to customers.

The announcement will have a negligible effect on licence fee negotiations. The Home Office

Oxford to split 'second' degree

Oxford is to begin granting two levels of second-class degrees in 1986, in common with other universities. More than three quarters of Oxford's students receive second-class degrees.

In a postal ballot done and senior officers voted two to one for the change. Oxford's Hebdomadal Council then adopted the recommendation.

Computer cash for councils

A county council has gone into the computer business, and is making money. Berkshire County Council has sold computer systems developed by its careers service and computer section to the Wirral and Buckinghamshire councils.

Inquiries on helicopter that ditched in sea

British Airways and British Petroleum yesterday launched separate investigations into the forced landing of a Chinook commercial helicopter in the North Sea on Wednesday. The crew of three and 44 passengers, who were on their way home from the Magnus oil platform, 125 miles north-east of the Shetland Islands, were rescued after abandoning the floundering helicopter.

The British Airways inquiry will focus on the flight control system which apparently developed a fault in the hydraulic pressure system, as well as on complaints by passengers about safety lines securing two life rafts to the helicopter. BP promised an energetic inquiry into other complaints by passengers about the survival suits they were wearing.

The helicopter, which turned turtle after the rescue operation, was being examined yesterday by British Airways engineers on the deck of the West German supply ship, Gallusturm. It was lifted onto the ship early yesterday.

A more detailed examination of the flight control system will be made when the Gallusturm docks in Aberdeen probably at the weekend.

LWT cut opinion poll Hattersley says

By Anthony Bevis

Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday accused London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* programme of "distorted reporting" for suppressing an opinion poll which gave Labour a 5 per cent lead.

Labour's deputy leader, who had been interviewed about the coal strike during last Sunday's programme, said that he had complained at the time about the "tendentious and prejudiced" introduction to the programme.

Viewers had been presented with a distorted view of the strike.

He added yesterday: "I now discover that the programme, had commissioned an opinion poll which demonstrated that, far from the Labour Party losing support because of the attitude we had taken, we had actually improved our position to a 5-point lead, but that this opinion poll was not mentioned because it did not fit in with the programme's predetermined view that the Labour Party had been damaged by the position it had taken up."

Mr Hattersley said that LWT could partly make amends with immediate publication of the poll results.

Chess interest centres on Karpov's rivals

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

With Karpov playing a quick draw in 15 moves with his fellow countryman Vaganian, chief interest in the seventh round of the Phillips and Drew GLC Kings Chess tournament in London yesterday centred on the game between the world champion's two rivals Polugaievsky and Chandler.

So Karpov and Polugaievsky were sharing the lead with 5½ points each, half a point ahead of Chandler and Seirawan, who won in incisive fashion against the British champion Mestel.

Results in round 7: Timman 7½, Ribli 7½, Sic Defence 3½, moves: Seirawan 1, Mestel 0, Ribli 1, Chandler 1, Polugaievsky 1, Chandler 1, QGT Parrasch Defence 3½, Vaganian 2, Karpov 1, QP Bogoljubov Defence 1½, Korchnoi adj against Torre, QP Kings Indian Defence 40, Miles 1, Nunn 0, QP Kings Indian Defence 27, Speedman adj against Anderson, QGT 1.

British Airways fare 'predatory'

British Airways is being attacked in the United States for alleged "predatory pricing". The Florida-based Arrow Air Company has complained to the US Civil Aeronautics Board over a £40 cut in the British airline's London-to-Miami fare.

Arrow Air took over the Laker route between Gatwick and Tampa in 1982, charging an approved advanced purchase fare of £339, compared with £379 charged by other leading airlines.

Chained nuns

Nine members of the Catholic Peace Action Group, including two nuns, were arrested outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall yesterday after chaining themselves to the main doors in a protest against the Government's nuclear



Hand reared: Miss Libby Henson feeding Gwen, a four-month-old heifer from a rare herd of Vaynolds cattle at Cotswold Farm Park, near Cheltenham (Photograph: Mike Charity)

May 13 1984

Most health farm care is overpriced and ineffective, report says

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Few of the treatments offered by health farms have any lasting benefit, most have more effect on the purse than on the person, according to a *Which?* report published today by the Consumers' Association.

There is no need to spend up to £550 a week for health and beauty care at such establishments, the report says. Beauty therapists offer the same facilities in high street salons at prices which are 10 per cent or 20 per cent lower.

Some of the treatments are "not advisable for people with conditions such as skin allergies, high blood pressure, heart problems or circulatory disorders", the report says.

Inspectors from the Consumers' Association visited 12 health farms, costing from about £200 to more than £550 a person a week. They included Georgian and Victorian mansions on secluded private estates, and a Scottish castle.

Treatments on offer ranged from applications of mud packs, seaweed, herbal gels and creams to reduce weight, tone muscles and improve the complexion, to

manipulation of the spine, massage of the soles of the feet, and sunbaths and saunas.

All of the treatments were evaluated for *Which?* by medical experts who concluded that few had any lasting benefits. One process aimed at removing dead cells from the surface of the skin with a mildly acidic lotion and a face mask was no more effective than rubbing the skin with a rough face flannel.

The report says that people seeking exercise by participating in a group could find better and cheaper options than health farms, such as weekly local authority classes costing £10 per term, weekend courses in keep-fit or yoga for £30, or £2 a session classes.

The individual factors which a health farm offers can be found elsewhere, usually at a lower cost, the report says.

"The health and beauty treatments will not effect any lasting transformation and may not do you any good at all."

"Exercise is no use unless you keep it up and any weight you lose may quickly be replaced."

"But if you need a complete

physical and psychological rest, or if you think you've earned a bit of pampering a few days at a health farm can make you feel terrific."

The report admits: "Our researchers and almost all the people they spoke to thoroughly enjoyed their stay. They felt it had been a relaxing, invigorating break, and that it was worth the money."

The most expensive health farm featured in the report is Champneys at Stobo, in Stobo Castle, Peebleshire, where the basic cost for a week is £555.45p. Mrs Tanya Wheway, a director of the company which owns it, and the £427-a-week Champneys at Tying, Hertfordshire, which is also featured, said: "I think the report is generally quite fair."

"We agree with the doctors about some treatments and tell all our guests that there may be only short-term benefits. They make you feel good and have a relaxing, pampering effect, but we never promise more than that."



Miss Viktoria Mullova, the violinist, who fled from Russia last year, photographed in London yesterday.

Orchestra facing closure

By George Hill

A private member's Bill which would stop shopkeepers selling solvents knowingly to young people for use in glue sniffing would be favoured in principle by the Government, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, indicated yesterday.

In a written reply to a Commons question from Sir Geoffrey Fisher, the Conservative MP for Hampstead and Highgate, Mr Brittan said that the Government would be prepared to support a Bill which made it an offence in England and Wales "for a person to sell substances to young people under the age of 16 if he knows or has reasonable grounds for believing that they are likely to be inhaled to achieve intoxication."

Mr Brittan had promised to consider bringing English law into line with Scottish law last year after two Glasgow shopkeepers were sentenced to three years in prison for selling "glue sniffing kits" to local children. There is no equivalent in English law to the Scottish common-law concept of "culpable and reckless conduct" causing real injury to another person, which the Scottish Court of Criminal Appeal ruled

in November could apply to cases of this kind.

"There appears to be little evidence of the sale of such kits in this country," Mr Brittan said. "If new legislation were to be introduced it should probably be extended beyond the sale of kits."

But he added that the Government would wish to consult the police and representatives of manufacturers and retailers' associations before any such measure was introduced. By implication, the Government would be ready to help with the preparation and drafting of a private member's Bill if a member successful in next session's ballot for parliamentary time sought to promote one, provided that the Government's consultations had been completed.

His statement is a response to concern among some Conservative backbenchers that the Government has underrated public anxiety over the issue. There have been calls for stronger controls on sales and also for specific legislation against glue-sniffing in public, in view of claims that deaths resulting from the practice rose to 57 last year.

UK debut for violinist who fled

Miss Viktoria Mullova, the brilliant young Soviet violinist who escaped from her KGB escort in Finland 10 months ago, made her British debut on the rostrum of the Festival Hall last night. Standing in at the last moment for Mr Shlomo Mintz, the violinist, who has a throat infection, she performed Sibelius's violin concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under the Finnish conductor, Mr Oloffe Kanna.

Miss Mullova, who won a Sibelius competition four years ago, was in the United States, where she has lived since her defection, when she was told of Mr Mintz's indisposition. She arrived in London on Wednesday ready to begin rehearsals for last night's concert.

Accompanying her on her short stay in Britain is Mr Vahang Sordanian, the Soviet conductor who joined her on her flight to the West. The two musicians, who were taking part in a concert tour of Finland, slipped away from their Soviet escort and fled across the Swedish border by taxi. They then travelled by air to Stockholm before seeking asylum in the United States.

Miss Mullova's defection was a severe blow to the Soviet authorities, because as the winner of the 1982 Tchaikovsky prize, she was one of the most talented Soviet musicians of her generation.

Since taking up residence in New York, she has been in demand as a soloist, performing mainly in North America. She has appeared at concerts in Toronto, Los Angeles, Chicago, Indiana, New York and Florida recently. Her only other performance outside the United States and Canada has been in Basel in Switzerland.

British opt for no frills food

Prawn cocktail followed by steak, chips and peas, with gaseous afterwards was found to be the most popular restaurant meal in the 1984 Caterer/Gallop Menu survey which covered 850 restaurants throughout Britain, 20 per cent more than in previous surveys.

Meringue-based sweets are most popular in the south of England and least in Wales. Black forest gâteau is still the favourite dessert, the survey says.

Gold field

Medieval gold coins have been uncovered by a farmer in a field near Sturminster Newton, Dorset. The 100 nobles, half nobles and quarter nobles, dating from the reigns of Edward III to Henry VI, are with the British Museum pending an inquest.

Horse 'in race fraud recognized by scar'

From Our Correspondent, York

A former National Hunt jockey, Colin Tinkler, said yesterday that he recognized the horse in an alleged "ringer" swindle.

He told York Crown Court that he had trained the three-year-old Good Hand at his stable in Malton, North Yorkshire, as a foal, it had received a tell-tale scar in the yard.

Mr Tinkler, aged 30, who retired 18 months ago after a

bad fall at Newcastle, said he recognized Good Hand instantly as the horse photographed winning a race for two-year-olds under the name of Flockton Grey.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC for the prosecution, has alleged that Kenneth Richardson, aged 47, a race horse owner and businessman, masterminded the swindle. Mr Tinkler's brother, Nigel, also a trainer, had sold Good Hand to Mr Richardson's racing manager, Colin Mathison, also accused of the swindle, the jury was told.

It is alleged that Mr Richardson and Mr Mathison, aged 46, stood to win £20,000 after they organized bets to be placed in several towns minutes before the race.

The court was told that with their driver, Peter Boddy, aged 39, they entered Good Hand, in the race at Leicester in spring, 1982.

Mr Richardson, from Hutton, Humberside, Mr Mathison, from Driffield, Humberside, Mr Boddy from Driffield, deny conspiracy to defraud.

The trial continues today.



Colin Tinkler: "Tell-tale scar on horse's leg."

Minister in move to end academic tenure

By John O'Leary
Of The Times Higher Education Supplement

The Government will consider legislation to replace academic tenure, which guarantees job security for thousands of university lecturers, unless reforms are agreed independently in the next year. Mr Peter Brooke, the minister responsible for higher education, says.

Ministers have pressed for action to allow the dismissal of academics since the 1981 cuts in university funding made job losses inevitable. Last year, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, asked the Privy Council not to accept new or amended university charters without such an enabling clause.

University vice-chancellors issued guidelines for reforms two years ago, but only Reading University has inserted a redundancy clause into all new lecturers' contracts. About half the universities have tenured posts.

Mr Brooke is anxious to encourage progress because he expects student numbers to fall in the 1990s, leading to further cuts in university and polytechnics. Tenured posts would be an obstacle to rationalization, although there is disagreement about the likely demand for higher education during the rest of the century.

In an interview published in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, Mr Brooke said that it was unreasonable to expect universities to make such a fundamental reform. The Government would not intervene until every other avenue had been explored.

He said that the natural time for a decision on legislation would come next year, when the Government will make long-term policy on higher education. A Green Paper is due at the end of this year.

Home workers get job protection

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Up to 600,000 people who work at home or from home may now be entitled to protection under employment laws after a legal ruling won by two women sewing machinists yesterday.

The ruling by a two-to-one majority in the Court of Appeal, may also bring thousands of "outworkers" within the pay-as-you-earn tax regulations, as they may no longer be considered self-employed.

The court held that two women making boys' trousers at home for a Cambridge clothing company were direct employees entitled to protection against unfair dismissal.

The company, Nethermere (St Neots), had argued that the women were self-employed and not entitled to claim unfair dismissal compensation.

Yesterday Mr Harold Weiss, Nethermere's managing director, which is appealing against the ruling to the House of Lords, said it could have "very serious repercussions" for the tax position of outworkers.

The ruling is expected to be studied by the Inland Revenue for its effects on workers who say they are self-employed and pay the tax of their earnings themselves. As direct employees, they would have their tax deducted at source.

However, the ruling was welcomed by the Equal Oppor-

unities Commission and the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses. The federation said the decision gave guidance on how homeworkers' status could be judged.

A spokesman said: "It could help the tax position of the legitimately self-employed by allowing them to keep that status."

The commission's spokesman said: "We are pleased that home workers as a group, who are mostly women, will be considered in the same way as employees. We hope this will afford them much more job protection."

Lord Justice Stephenson and Lord Justice Dillon dismissed Nethermere's appeal against a preliminary decision by an industrial tribunal in Cambridge, which was confirmed by the Employment Appeal Tribunal, that the women could proceed with an unfair dismissal complaint.

The complaint, yet to be investigated on its merits, was made by Mrs Maria Taverna, aged 34, and Mrs Layna Gardiner, aged 26, both of St Neots, who claim they lost their jobs in July 1981 after the company was told they were entitled to holiday pay.

Lord Justice Keir dissented, saying he would have allowed the company's appeal.

Law Report, page 4

Advocacy rule stays

The Prime Minister yesterday ruled out any move to end barristers' monopoly of advocacy rights in the higher courts and extend them to solicitors. In Commons question time she said it was too early to consider altering the present system, under which barristers only have rights of audience in the Crown Court and higher courts.

Mrs Thatcher, who is a barrister, said: "This was considered by the Royal Commission on Legal Services under Lord Benson which reported it would be against the interest of the client to extend the right of audience of solicitors from the lower courts to the higher courts."

The Government had accepted that advice in its response last autumn to the royal commission report and it was too early to reconsider.

Norwich Union

The Chairman Mr MG Falcon CBE, DL reports:

LIFE SOCIETY
Both additional and reversionary bonuses increased.
Dramatic growth in new premiums.

FIRE SOCIETY
Pre-tax profits fell once more, due to excessive competition.
Turnover increased modestly, and a tight rein was kept on our expenses.

Life Society

Our large holdings of ordinary shares and property investments provide a steadily rising stream of income which enables us consistently to remain a market leader in the return we give to our policyholders.

The withdrawal of tax relief on new policies is disappointing but we will continue to provide a very competitive secure vehicle for savings and protection.

New annual premiums in the U.K. grew from £54 million to £89 million. This includes an increase of 240% in endowment mortgage business to £51 million. Overseas annual premiums grew 15% to £26 million. Single premiums for Bonds and Annuities were buoyant in the U.K. - up 52% to £165 million. Overseas single premiums increased 30% to £13 million.

Our subsidiary Norwich General Trust advanced £23 million in new loans to over 300 small and medium sized businesses during the year.

Fire Society

Despite excess market capacity we have seen a return to premium growth without any relaxation in our corporate strategy.

Pre-tax profits dropped from £26 million to £22 million, the deterioration in underwriting results being only partially offset by increased investment income.

Our running costs have been subject to tight control, resulting in the lowest increase in expenses for several years. We shall continue to seek ways of improving our service to policyholders and reducing the cost of providing it.

The Annual General Meeting of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society will be held on the 15th May 1984 in Norwich.

LIFE SOCIETY	1983	1982
NEW BUSINESS		
New Annual Premiums	£115.3m	£76.7m
New Single Premiums	178.0	118.8
COST OF BONUSES		
Annual	144.8	112.6
Terminal	18.8	16.6
Special	2.6	61.3
ANALYSIS OF PREMIUMS		
United Kingdom	459.9	367.6
Republic of Ireland	12.9	13.4
Overseas	105.3	89.7
TOTAL PREMIUMS	578.1	470.7
FIRE SOCIETY	1983	1982
PREMIUMS	£260.7m	£251.3m
Investment income	53.6	51.8
Underwriting loss	25.5	20.8
Share of Associated Companies' results (mainly Norwich Winterthur)	3.1 loss	1.2 loss
Expenses not charged to other accounts	2.9	3.6
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	22.1	26.2
Taxation and Minority Interests	6.5	10.5
NET PROFIT	15.6	15.7
Dividends	11.7	10.0
ANALYSIS	Premiums	Underwriting Result
	1983	1982
United Kingdom	£264.0m	£252.9m
Republic of Ireland	14.1	13.3
Overseas	37.2	34.6
Marine & Aviation	21.1	20.0
	336.4	320.8
Less Reinsurance with Associates (mainly Norwich Winterthur)	75.7	74.5
Totals	260.7	251.3
	(25.5)	(20.8)
Investment income attributable to Insurance Operations	35.2	34.3
Insurance Result	9.7	13.5
Group Assets	£6,767.6	£5,632.8

Copies of the Directors' Report and Group Accounts including the Chairman's full Statement may be obtained from The Accountant, Norwich Union Insurance Group, P.O. Box 4, Norwich NR1 3NG.



Opposing views of Thatcher's first five years

COMMONS

Political obedience had become a condition of appointment for senior positions in the Civil Service, nationalized industries and wage councils since Mrs Thatcher had been elected to power. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said during questions in the Commons.

He accused the Prime Minister of bringing a greater concentration of power to the central state than ever before in British peacetime history. But Mrs Thatcher strongly denied the charges and read out a list of controls her Government had abolished and said the number of civil servants had been reduced to the lowest number since the war.

Asked by Mr David Penhaligon, the Liberal MP to reveal her biggest mistake since coming to power in 1979 Mrs Thatcher said there was not enough to reveal.

Mr Kinnock began the exchanges when he said: Will the Prime Minister on this election day say whether she is glad or sorry that she was going to roll back the state, has brought a greater concentration of power to the central state than ever before in British peacetime history?

Mrs Thatcher: That just is not true. We abolished controls on prices, incomes, dividends and exchange rates. We abolished industrial development certificates, office development certificates and many other controls. We have reduced the number of civil servants to the lowest number since the war.

Mr Kinnock: The Prime Minister either does not know what she is doing or she has a very selective view of the last five years. Does she recall that she has deprived 15 million people of their votes in Greater London and the Metropolitan counties.

Does she understand the effect of imposing penalties and rate capping on local services which are a matter of life or death for many people in this country?

Does she understand the effect of making £8,500 a year the rate support grant for the rates of poor areas, which have shot up as a result of that?

Does she recall that it is she that has made political obedience a condition of appointment for senior positions in the Civil Service, in nationalized industries boards and wage councils and many other bodies like health authorities.

If she does not think that is a process of centralization and assertion of central state control she

does not understand the word democracy. (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: He did not quarrel with any of the replies I gave earlier because they were all dead-end answers. (Labour laughter and Conservative cheers.)

In the four years 1979-1983 while prices rose by 55 per cent, earnings by 87 per cent domestic rates went up on average by 91 per cent and in ten authorities, namely Labour authorities, by 135 per cent.

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DAIRY FARMING

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, reported to the Commons to cheer from members on both sides that the EEC Commission had agreed to bump the two payments of milk levy together.

As a result, he said, the first levy payment did not have to be collected until 45 days after the end of September - by mid-November at the latest. This was a move which would help a good many UK dairy producers.

The minister was closely questioned about the problems being faced by dairy farmers, particularly small producers, cutting back milk production to comply with new quotas and there were calls for a scheme of assistance, proposals in Germany and France being cited.

Mr Jopling explained that detailed rules of the quota scheme were only finalized in Brussels yesterday (Wednesday) and the Government would be considering those details carefully. They would move ahead to deal with special and hard cases as fast as they possibly could.

An appeals procedure needed to be set up quickly to consider compensation for small dairy farmers who were going bankrupt because of the cutbacks in milk quotas. Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said during exchanges after Mr Jopling had said producers related to their deliveries during the reference period. But a reserve of about 2.5 per cent of the quotas had been set aside for special cases which would be carefully considered.

Mr David Maclean (Penrith and The Border, C) said there were special problems for small farmers on wet land, such as in Cumbria, because they could not move into sheep or cereals.

Mr Jopling: We shall be looking at all hardship cases.

Mr Tom Torney (Bradford S, Lab):

Apart from the hardship suffered by all dairy farmers, considerable hardship is going to be experienced by the processing and distribution side of the industry. Creameries are likely to close, considerable unemployment will be caused.

Mr Jopling: We are well aware of the problems which the imposition of the super levy will cause in all sections of the dairy industry. There is no doubt it will cause problems in some processing plants.

This is inevitable when you cut production levels as we have to. Quite recently we had a situation where 140 tonnes of butter a day were going into intervention.

Mr James Spicer (Dorset West, C) asked for an assurance that the appeals procedure would consider

Mr Colin Shepherd (Hereford, C): Can he confirm that in drawing up the present rules the Milk Marketing Board has been closely involved and consulted and highly regarded?

Mr Jopling: The MMB has been consulted all through this matter. The document the MMB has circulated to MPs did say it would be responsible for paying the levy for all milk produced over the quota and will then recover the relevant part of the levy from those producers in excess of their quota.

Mr Stephen Rees (isle of Wight, L) asked what financial assistance the minister was prepared to make available to smaller dairy farmers whose income had been substantially reduced following the recent price review.

Mr Jopling: As part of the agreement we introduced the supplementary levy scheme for milk, agreement was reached to extend the Community scheme to aid the incomes of small-scale milk producers for a further two years.

There are also provisions which may benefit smaller producers in the Community regulations on the supplementary levy scheme for milk. A producer who is implementing or has recently implemented a milk

help for small farmers who had not expanded but had to make 20 per cent cuts.

Mr Jopling: I can give the assurance that I shall look at the possibility of helping small producers. This is allowed for under the rules the Commission has looked at. It is not strictly true to say no small producers have not expanded recently. A number have.

Mr James Nicholson (Newry and Armagh, OUP) said the Northern Ireland dairy industry would not

that closing down the industry would be the job of the Government. There is a conflict (he said) between steel men who know that only customers make jobs and miners' leaders who do not know how to keep jobs.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The steel industry is a good customer for coal and one would think that an industry which wanted a good future would be careful to keep customers.

Mr Richard Hickman (Glasgow and Southside, C) said that the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the National Union of Railwaymen and Aslef to abandon support for the strike of miners because of the effect on jobs at Ravenscraig and Scunthorpe.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab) said this was a tax on jobs which was totally unjustifiable in a period of rising unemployment.

Our complaint about this change (he said) is that it has been left too late; done too slowly; and now the Government must go further than they have. It is not sufficient to give the boost to manufacturing industry which the Government has done.

Mr John Farr (Harborough, C) said that judging from the miserable speeches by Labour MPs the House would not think that the surcharge was going to be abolished.

It is not just a tax on jobs (he said). It is a tax on incentive and a tax on exports. The abolition of this surcharge will mean that in the next few years to be possibly one of the most significant improvements in our economic management which has so far taken place.

experience with this tax during its term of office would dissuade future administrations of whatever political colour from going down this road again. There were other ways of raising revenue.

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The need for some obligations was recognized in *Hyflux Footwear Ltd v Cope* and a course of dealing could be used as a basis for implying terms into individual contracts which were concluded pursuant thereto, but his Lordship could find no authority for the proposition that even a lengthy course of dealing could somehow convert itself into a contractually binding obligation - subject only to reasonable notice - to continue to enter into individual contracts, or to be subject to some "umbrella" contract.

It was that feature which distinguished the present case from all its predecessors in which similar issues had arisen and which justified the conclusion, following *Edwards v Bainton*, that the decision of the tribunal contained an error of law on its face. His Lordship would, accordingly, have allowed the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that he would accept that an arrangement under which there was no obligation on the part of the workers to work for the employer, but that the workers could fix their own hours of work, could take holidays and time off when they wished and could vary how many garments they were willing to take on any day or even to take on any particular day, while undoubtedly factors for the industrial tribunal to consider in deciding whether or not there was a contract of service, did not as a matter of law negative the existence of such a contract.

There was no reason in law why the existence of a contract of service might not be inferred from a course

have an advantage but the same level of cuts as the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mr Jopling: Northern Ireland has been given the full benefit of the 63.1m litres which I did announce against the MMB from the MMB makes a dismal reading. The levy will be delayed for some time. Will he introduce something similar to the German and French schemes and can he put the bottom back into the beef market which would seem to be a sensible step to take?

Mr Jopling: With regard to the outgoings scheme which has already been announced in Germany, I understand that the Netherlands and Denmark have not announced schemes. The first print of the details of these regulations were only discussed in Brussels yesterday. We shall be considering that provision.

Mr Peter Mills (West Devon and Torridge, C): Would he consider seriously a national scheme to allow, on a voluntary basis, dairy farmers to get out? Other countries are doing it. The milk quota could be allocated to those who would be available to other Community countries but not to this country.

Mr Jopling: The regulations have only recently come to fruition. A number of states voted against the levy yesterday in Brussels, including ourselves, because certain details remain unsatisfactory. I hope we will get them right.

Does he think he says about the outgoings scheme which have been taken up by some states and not by others.

Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke, C): In the light of the concern being expressed in some quarters about the volume of dairy produce imported from New Zealand, will he comment on the possibility, or otherwise of this being reviewed?

Mr Jopling: The Council of Agricultural Ministers will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday of next week. The import arrangements for New Zealand will be an important matter to be discussed.

If that is the policy and philosophy of the Government towards nationalized industries why did the force the electricity board and the gas board to put up prices substantially, against their commercial judgment and publicly stated objectives, to give a good return on the taxpayers' money. It sets an external financial limit and broadly leaves management to get on with the job.

Mr Jack Dornand (Easting, Lab): She has said on a number of occasions that the National Coal Board ought to be allowed to get on with its job without interference from the Government.

The action of some miners' leaders in closing the industry means they will go to it to achieve their objectives. Will she tell the Leader of the Opposition that Conservatives, who represent the workers in this country, do not expect the miners to pay 50p a week to striking miners.

Mrs Thatcher: The Government sets objectives, including financial objectives, to give a good return on the taxpayers' money. It sets an external financial limit and broadly leaves management to get on with the job.

After careful consideration, we have modified some of the rules, in particular the rules relating to vessels acquired by fishermen who were temporarily without a vessel on February 3 but could demonstrate a recent history of pressure stock fishing.

But the basic purpose of the scheme, namely the containment of the number of vessels able to fish for pressure stock, stands.

of dealing, continued between the parties over several years. The fact that the machinery was supplied by the employers to each of the applicants indicated, at the least, an expectation on both sides.

It was unreal to suppose that the work in fact done by the applicants for the employers was done merely as a result of the pressures of market forces on the applicants and the employers and under no contractual obligation.

There was a regular course of dealing between the parties for years under which garments were supplied daily to the outworkers, worked on, collected and paid for. If it was permissible on the evidence to find that by such conduct a contract had been established between each applicant and the employers, there was no necessity to conclude that that contract must have been a contract for services and not a contract of service.

Solicitors: Polden Bishop & Gale; Wilkinson & Butler. St Neots.

Herbage v Pressdram Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Kerr

[Judgment delivered May 1]

The effect of section 8(3) and (5) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 was to put a rehabilitated person in a more advantageous position than one who had not been rehabilitated himself, because it was his conviction which was the subject of the prohibition against publication of his spent conviction, in the same position as a person who had never been convicted of a crime.

It was now settled law in such cases that a court would only intervene by way of interlocutory injunction where there was over-assertion of a right (that is, publication with some irrelevant, spurious or improper motive); see *Wilson v Impresario* (1887) 3 TLR 649.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff Mr Alex William Herbage, from the refusal by Mr Justice Webster on November 10, 1983, to grant him an interlocutory injunction preventing further publication by the defendants of his spent convictions.

Mr Richard Slove for the plaintiff, Mr Desmond Browne for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS said that the 1974 Act rehabilitated a convicted person who had rehabilitated himself into a more advantageous position than one who had not been rehabilitated himself, because it was his conviction which was the subject of the prohibition against publication of his spent conviction, in the same position as a person who had never been convicted of a crime.

Accordingly, there was no good reason why, as Mr Slove had submitted, the court should apply a more stringent test for an interlocutory injunction to a rehabilitated offender in any manner different from any other defendant action where the issue was malice, or, if, exceptionally, the court should adopt the approach recommended in *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* (1975) AC 394, contrary to the practice in libel cases established by *Trevor v Solomon* (unreported; Court of Appeal, December 14, 1977).

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The Commission's proposal is that this year 83,000 tonnes of butter should be imported from New Zealand, falling over each of the next five years by 2,000 tonnes each year, falling in five years' time to 75,000 tonnes.

The Government believes strongly that we ought to give that market to New Zealand which is important and essential to her and

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

"We are dealing. I must say bluntly to the House, the Prime Minister declared, 'with circumstances in which no government here or in any other country would say more than I am prepared to say to the House tonight'. Those words were not spoken this week; the Prime Minister in question was not Mrs Thatcher; and the circumstances were not the murderous activities of the Libyan People's Bureau.

Anthony Eden was speaking to the Commons in 1956 about the Suez Canal. The Commander Crabb, the frogman, in what was widely presumed to be an intelligence operation in Portsmouth harbour near the destroyers which had brought Krushchev and Bulganin to Britain. A fortnight later the Speaker refused to allow any further questions on the incident, on the ground that the Prime Minister had given an absolute refusal to answer them.

Fury with Gaddafi will not melt away

The whole episode illustrates how difficult it is to keep a political issue alive when ministers are declining to say anything more for reasons of national security. Interests in the espionage aspects of the case remained for some time. But as a political issue it died within a matter of days.

So now with the Libyan People's Bureau. The national fury with Colonel Gaddafi will not melt away. Public interest will remain in such questions as the limits of diplomatic immunity and the shipment of arms through diplomatic bags. But as a domestic political issue I believe that the episode is now dead.

Mrs Thatcher has made it clear that there will be no independent inquiry, simply an internal review under the Cabinet Office to see if there are lessons to be learned in the handling of intelligence. That decision may be right or wrong - and I must confess that I am not entirely convinced that it would have been inappropriate to bring in the Security Commission - but there is even less chance that it is final.

Seeking lessons for the future

The foreign affairs select committee of the House of Commons is to undertake an urgent inquiry into diplomatic immunities and privileges. That may be embarrassing for ministers if the committee criticizes the failure to break off diplomatic relations after the People's Bureau was taken over in February by revolutionaries who were not recognized as accredited diplomats.

But the mood of the committee at this stage seems to be more reflective than accusatory. The inclination is principally to see what lessons can be learned for the future. Once the committee becomes embroiled in the technicalities of the Vienna Convention it may not be able to conclude its work swiftly.

The home affairs select committee met on Wednesday but it is not to conduct any special inquiry into this incident. It will remind the Government that it is still awaiting a reply to its 1980 report on public order, but there is no disposition from any section of the committee to go further.

Government now more vulnerable

So the fortunes of the parties are not likely to rise or fall because of what happened in St James's Square. But this does not mean that the episode was of no political consequence at all. It will mean that if there is ever another incident of this nature the Government will be much more vulnerable politically, and it has had its effect already on the standing of individual politicians.

The Home Secretary, who has had to bear the main burden of parliamentary explanation, has conducted an effective exercise in damage limitation. Mr Brin has not enjoyed a parliamentary triumph, but he has avoided a blunder - which was what mattered to the Government. Mr Owen has confirmed his reputation as the most effective performer on any opposition party, and Mr Healey demonstrated how erratic he can be by putting up his worst parliamentary performance since the election. But St James's Square 1984 will be remembered as a human tragedy and an international outrage, not as an important event in British politics.

Research body aims to increase government funds to social science

By Peter Hennessy

The Economic and Social Research Council will approve a new strategy at a meeting in London today designed to boost the contribution of government-sponsored social science to the process of economic and social change in Britain.

It comes after a review of the priorities of the council (formerly known as the Social Science Research Council SSRC) undertaken by Professor



Sir Douglas Hague: Dramatic developments.

Sir Douglas Hague, who took over as chairman last autumn. Sir Douglas believes the information revolution is producing economic and technical changes which "together are causing all sorts of dramatic developments" and that the council has a significant contribution to make to help the British economy compete successfully in world markets in the difficult climate of the 1980s and 1990s.

He said yesterday: "You cannot manage the introduction of new technologies unless you recognize that social science, especially management science, has a contribution to make."

The Hague plan involves the allocation of £411,000 in 1985-86, about a third of the council's uncommitted finance, to the theme of "Change in Britain". That sum will double in the two successive years.

The council is to hold a seminar in July at which the chairman of its six interdisciplinary committees will present papers linking the change theme to their research programmes.

Dealers in Vulcans may lose

By Rodney Cowton

Defence Correspondent

Scrap metal dealers who bought for a few hundred pounds the engines from Vulcan bombers, each valued at nearly £750,000 by the Ministry of Defence, are in danger of losing money on the deal.

Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary at the ministry, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee, that when the Vulcan was withdrawn from service last year, 175 Olympus engines were sold for scrap for prices as low as £350 each.

The engines were bought by competitive tender, and 33 of them went to W Harold John (Metals) of Newport, Gwent. Mr Peter John, a director, said that they had paid an average of about £550 for them, and they would be lucky to break even.

They had advertised them for sale quite widely. There had been suggestions they might be used for electricity generation and other purposes, but nothing had come of it.

Mr John said stripping them down for scrap had involved a great deal of work, perhaps costing about £500 an engine. They still had "an awful lot of bits" of the engines lying around, and they would be lucky to recover their costs in selling the scrap.

Russia changes rules to ban food parcels

By David Cross

Britons with friends and relatives in the Soviet Union will effectively be prevented from sending much needed parcels of food and clothing under new Russian import regulations that have just come into light.

The new rules are seen by human rights groups as part of a concerted campaign to make life more difficult for minorities in the Soviet Union with contacts in the West.

For many years the Soviet authorities have allowed a limited number of trading companies in the West to pay duty on postal packages before they are exported. Last year, for example, more than 30,000 parcels containing items such as clothing, linen and dry foods were sent from Britain under the prepaid duty system.

But last week the Soviet trade ministry told trading companies in Britain, the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Denmark that from August 1 duty would have to be paid by the recipient of the goods in the Soviet Union. The Ministry blamed rising costs for the decision to terminate the prepaid duty system.

The change will mean a steep rise in the amount of duty likely to be charged on goods posted to the Soviet Union, as well as more pilferage when parcels are opened by the authorities to examine their contents. Under

High success rate in legal aid cases

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A quarter of a million people in Scotland, one in every 18, received legal aid for criminal and civil cases last year, according to the latest annual report on the Scottish legal aid scheme.

Legal advice on civil matters such as marriage, debts, hire purchase and wills covered almost half the cases at an average cost of £45 a case. Of about 26,000 civil cases going to the courts, about half were divorce proceedings.

Nine out of 10 such cases going to the courts were successful. Mr Sandy McIlwain, president of the Law Society of Scotland, which administers the scheme, said the success rate was "exceptionally high" and it was worth remembering that without legal aid, none of the actions could have proceeded.

Damages of almost £4.25m were obtained by people helped by legal aid and legal expenses of £1.5m were recovered from unsuccessful opponents and ploughed back into the legal aid fund.

In criminal legal aid, more than 55,000 applications were approved for legal aid in criminal cases in all Scottish courts, the report says. There was a sharp increase in the number of trials.

"Annual report on the Scottish legal aid scheme. (Stationery Office, £3.90.)

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British industry trails in new technology use

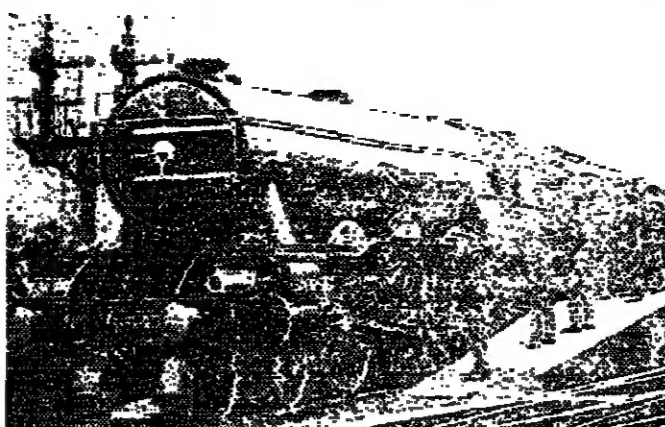
British industry is lagging behind its main foreign competitors in embracing new technology, a five-nation survey published yesterday claims.

The study was conducted in Britain (Our Technology Correspondent writes). West Germany, Belgium, Australia and the United States for technical and managerial consultants PA Technology by MORI, more than 500 board directors were questioned.

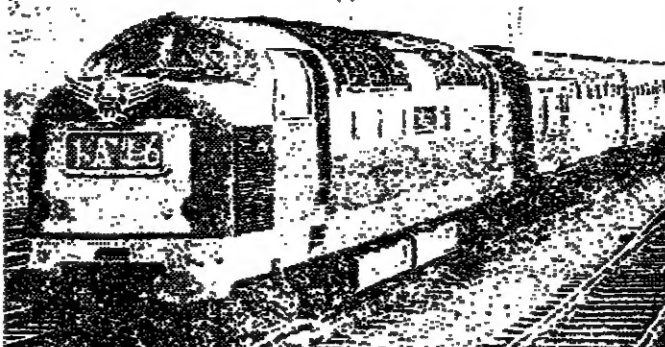
PA concludes: "Britain fared badly in almost every category

of the international comparison. Two-fifths (39 per cent) of British companies claimed to have no strategy for innovation and the application of new technology compared with Belgium (22 per cent), USA (36 per cent) and Australia (37 per cent)."

Although the British had confidence in their products, only about one in five of the 102 businessmen surveyed in Britain felt that technology had great impact.



The Flying Scotsman took seven hours to cover the 393 miles from London to Edinburgh in 1938. This was Sir Nigel Gresley's Pacific-class steam locomotive.



In 1977 the 3300 hp Deltic, British Rail's most powerful diesel-electric locomotive of the day, took 5 hours 27 minutes for the journey.



The 1984 time is 4 hours 30 minutes. This InterCity 125, with 4500 hp from front and rear power cars, has a maximum speed of 125 mph.

Edinburgh flyer cuts trip to 4 1/2 hours

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

The Flying Scotsman will fly even faster between London and Edinburgh this month with a new record scheduled time of 4 hours 30 minutes for the 393-mile journey compared with the present 4 hours 36 minutes.

That will make it one of British Rail's fastest trains, with a journey time little over half that achieved early this century, when fast steam expresses first gave the train its worldwide fame.

The new timing, by British Rail's 125 mph InterCity 125, trims an hour off the 1960s and 1970s when the powerful Deltic diesels took 5 hours 27 minutes; and two and a half hours off the 7 hours taken by the famous steam-hauled trains of the 1930s.

Before that for 40 years the journey took 8 1/2 hours. The railway companies raced their trains up the east and west coast routes to Scotland in 1888, then made a gentleman's agreement

not to go on behaving like that. But the prospect of even faster trains in the future is "fairly limited", Mr Frank Paterson, Eastern Region's general manager said at a press conference in York yesterday.

But in the 1990s electric trains travelling at 140 mph should cut the time to about four hours, assuming government approval. Speed improvements now owe much more to costly track improvements than faster trains. This month's speed-up springs largely from a 14-mile stretch of new track avoiding the big new coalfield at Selby.

Eastern Region are also speeding-up answers to passengers' telephone inquiries with new electronic aids and extra staff.

Also speeded-up are rail services from London to Aberdeen (6 hours 59 minutes) and Inverness (8 hours 50 minutes); the latter a two hour gain on the existing Clansman via Glasgow.

Heathrow cross landing plan

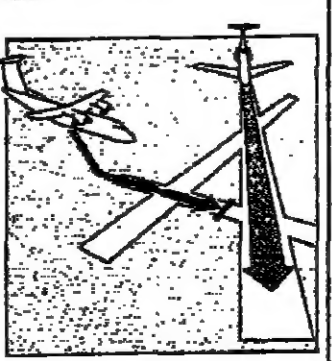
A novel way to beat traffic congestion at Heathrow Airport has been proposed to Britain's Civil Aviation Authority this week by Brymon Airways, the short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) airline that wants to operate from London's docks.

(Michael Bailly, Our Transport Editor, writes.) It involved STOL aircraft, which need only 300 yards to land using a short cross runway at the same time as, and without interfering with, the main traffic flow by big jets using the main runways into the prevailing wind.

Brymon claim that the system would allow flights to Heathrow to rise above the proposed 275,000 limit without noticeably increasing noise, and that the £15 a head "poll tax" the Government are considering to keep Heathrow domestic flights down would become unnecessary.

Cross landing of this kind has not been used in Britain before. Heathrow is the only airport where congestion would command it, but has been used for some time in America, notably at New York, Washington, and San Francisco.

The 50-seat de Havilland Dash-7 used by Brymon is claimed to be one of the world's quietest aircraft, and its landing characteristics are such that landing in a cross wind is quite safe.



£1bn boom

An estimated £1,038m was spent by visitors to the West Country in 1983, against £876m the previous year, the West Country Tourist Board reported yesterday.

Farmers' free milk protest on quotas

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers in Dorset are to give away free milk on May 28, the Spring Bank holiday, in protest against the imposition of production quotas.

"The milk we will be giving would be taxed at a far higher price than would be paid for it, and farmers feel therefore that it is better to be given away," Mr Alan Roberts, National Farmers Union county secretary, said.

"We have always agreed that it was nonsense to go on financing surplus production out of taxpayers' money," he added. "We said two or three years ago that we would be happy to see measures taken, perhaps through price controls.

"But to expect farmers to cut back production overnight is quite ridiculous. In Britain we have had the worst deal of any country in Europe."

Under the EEC-imposed scheme, the milk marketing boards in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be required to pay a penalty to Brussels on all production in excess of their allocated quotas. The levy may then be passed on to farmers who produce more than their agreed quantities.

In theory the levy could be as high as 17.47p a litre, which is 100 per cent of the EEC "target price." The actual price paid by the boards to farmers varies from month to month, and is complicated by new additions and deductions based on butterfat, protein and lactose content, but the England and Wales board has estimated the average price for this year at 14.3p a litre.

Over-producing farmers are unlikely to be asked to pay the full levy, as their cattle can be offered against shortfalls on the part of farmers whose herds are affected by disease, or who decide to give up dairying.

The National Farmers' Union has said it hopes that the maximum penalty will not exceed about 13p a litre, but that, whatever happens, farmers who exceed their quotas will inevitably suffer financially.

Proposal to raise damages

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Damages for personal injury and fatal accidents should be assessed by courts on the basis that the income lost is invested in index-linked government stock, a working party of actuaries and lawyers proposed yesterday.

The controversial proposal could mean higher sums would be awarded to those injured and to dependants of those killed where damages are payable over a number of years, the working party says.

In a report the working party, under Mr Michael O'Connell QC, says that at present courts seek to put the wage earner, or his dependants if he has been killed, into the same financial position as if the accident had not occurred.

It is up to him to invest that lump sum as best he can to replace the income lost for which he is being compensated. In most cases the courts have decided that inflation should be disregarded on the ground that it can be dealt with by prudent investment policy.

But such investment is difficult to estimate and match precisely to lost income, with an "unavoidable risk of injustice to either plaintiff or defendant, the working party says.

With the issue in 1981 of index-linked government stock, however, there can be an accurate assessment on the basis of assumed investment in such stocks, the working party says.

"If the loss is, say, £5,000 per annum he can be awarded damages which, if invested in such stocks, will provide him with almost exactly that sum in real terms."

Teenage snipers prompt call for German rifle ban

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Snipers have prompted a Liverpool MP to call for a ban on the importation of German air rifles. Mr Edward Loyden, Labour MP for Garston, Liverpool, described the purchasing of the high velocity weapons by people aged under 17 as an "extensive problem."

By law, the air rifles should not be used or purchased by anyone under 17. Mr Loyden's remarks came after complaints from local veterinary surgeons concerned by the pain caused to animals by the disintegrating lead and iron pellets fired from the guns.

Mr Loyden said: "I have written to the Home Secretary, pointing out the dangers of these weapons. I am sure the veterinary reports are only the tip of the iceberg."

"People shoot at animals for kicks and it could result in rifles being used in a much more vicious way." He was referring to the shooting of a Liverpool girl aged 18 last week. A pellet entered her back and passed out through her chest.

Mr Loyden said: "There ought to be an immediate stop to the selling of guns pending legislation, which should be amended to stop the guns coming into the possession of young or irresponsible people."

"However, I don't want to affect areas of sport which use guns in a controlled fashion. I don't want to place restrictions on them, as shooting is a popular sport."

A ballistics expert, Mr Derek Baldock, science director of Bernicon Consulting Scientists of Long Eaton, Nottingham, said: "A high velocity air weapon is one whose energy produced at its muzzle exceeds 12lb."

Hanoi ready for Chinese attack in frontier war

From David Watts, Lang Son, Vietnam-China border

The China-Vietnam border mini-war has moved into its second month with new tension on both the military and diplomatic fronts.

As more than a thousand Chinese shells hit the Vietnamese border area the Chinese Ambassador to Hanoi, Mr Qui Lixian, stalked out of a reception at the weekend in protest at Vietnamese complaints about China's "hostile attitude".

Five years after China's short-lived invasion of Vietnam in 1979 the border area of sheer valleys and precarious hills is still tense.

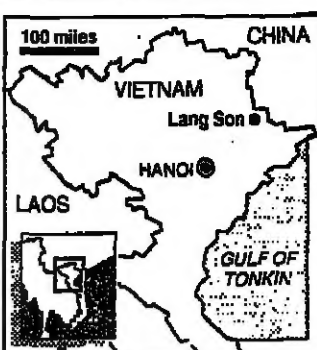
For many miles behind the provincial capital of Lang Son Vietnamese forces are constantly on the alert for a "second lesson" another full-scale response to Vietnamese military activity in Cambodia. It could come any time.

The Vietnamese have deployed the cream of their army, more than half a million men. Their equipment is new. Here and there are missile launchers and anti-aircraft guns pointing northwards towards China. Rows of lorries nestle under camouflage. Anti-aircraft guns at the forward airfield of Kep are manned, but its MIG 21s are out of sight.

Until the week end the Chinese response to the Vietnamese had been carefully measured.

After the Vietnamese took two high points on the Thai-Cambodian border held by the Cambodians, resistance in the Chinese briefly took two points in northern Vietnam. But despite a rather abrupt end to the fighting at the Thai-Cambodian border the Chinese have pressed on with their shelling of the frontier area.

This may presage a more comprehensive attack. Certainly the Vietnamese were ready for it last month, when border hospitals were cleared



ready for the wounded. Since then there appears to have been a sort of phoney war fought largely between opposing artillery batteries.

The Vietnamese refuse to take correspondents right into the forward area because they fear for their safety, so the damage must be inspected at a distance. Nor are they able to give numbers of Chinese casualties. Yet curiously they report on the number of shells which land on their soil in exhausting detail.

The Times, however, was taken to interview one of the injured in the provincial hospital at Lang Son, a young Nung minority farmer hit by Chinese rifle fire last month.

Mr Au Viet Cong was going to visit relatives when the Chinese opened fire without warning. He was hit in the head by the third shot. The Chinese followed up with machine-gun fire and the family fled.

The fact that Mr Au was one of the only three injured treated in the town's hospitals during April has led to some measure of disbelief among foreign missions in Hanoi as to the intensity of the border shelling. The Vietnamese, however, say that since 1979 they are now much better prepared, with extensive border trenches and shelters for the population, and these minimize casualties.



Waiting in line: Cambodian refugees queue for water at Ban Santor Changan camp after fleeing into Thailand from Vietnamese attacks on Ampil.

Cambodian rebels fear Vietnamese genocide

By Simon Scott Plummer

Hanoi has settled 300,000 Vietnamese in Cambodia as part of a drive to exterminate the native people, one of the Cambodian resistance leaders said in London yesterday.

Mr Son Sann, one of the three leaders of the rebel Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, and president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said that Vietnamese settlers had been given the best land in the south of the country along the Mekong River and around the southern

shore of the Tonle Lake, and that the Vietnamese had the sole right to fish in the lake. He added that the Heng Samrin Government in Phnom Penh had started to tax ethnic Chinese traders in the capital.

Mr Sann said the Vietnamese had trained small suicide commando units of young men whose parents had been killed while the Khmer Rouge ruled the country between 1975 and 1979, and sent them against the resistance groups with the invitation to avenge their parents.

Danish MPs vote for atom-free zone

From Our Correspondent, Copenhagen

The Folketing (parliament) yesterday ordered the centre-right government to work towards banning nuclear weapons from Denmark in times of peace, crisis and war, in the context of a Nordic nuclear-free zone recognized by the Soviet Union and the United States.

The motion, passed by 73 votes to six in the 179-seat house, was tabled by the opposition Social Democrats in defiance of the policies of the Conservative-led minority government, which abstained.

The resolution also called for Denmark to press for a resumption of East-West arms reduction talks.

Expressing doubt about the practicality of the setting up of a Nordic nuclear-free zone, Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Foreign Minister, said the Government would live with the Bill.

Denmark declared in 1956 that it would not allow nuclear weapons to be stationed on its territory in times of peace.

Drought could kill millions of Ethiopians

Adis Ababa (Reuters)

Several million Ethiopians could die as a result of an unprecedented drought, a senior Government official said.

Mr Dawit Wolde Gorgise, head of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, said that unless massive international assistance was forthcoming "the majority of the 5.2 million people affected by the worst drought in years could die". Ethiopia's food reserves "could only last for about two months".

Mr Dawit said the drought had spread to previously unaffected areas. The worst-hit regions were Wollo province, with more than 1.7 million people affected, Tigray, with 1.3 million affected and Eritrea, with almost one million victims. Both Tigray and Eritrea are the scene of secessionist revolts which hinder distribution of aid.

A severe drought in the early 1970s killed 200,000 Ethiopians and resulted in the 1974 revolution, which toppled Emperor Haile Selassie and brought the present Soviet-aligned government to power.

All quiet on the eastern front despite tension over arrest of Israelis

From Christopher Walker, Jebel Araby, eastern Lebanon

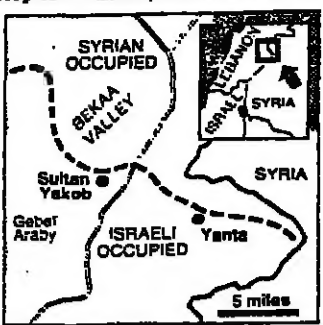
The only shots being fired in anger yesterday in Lebanon's fertile Bekaa valley - where tens of thousands of Syrian and Israeli troops face each other across a ceasefire line at times as narrow as 300 yards - came from local hunters determined to put a cruel end to a flight of stocks gently wheeling their way northwards.

Although a gross affront to any birdlover, it was also a sign that so far the diplomatic tension between Israel and Syria caused by the capture of three Israelis in northern Lebanon has not yet been reflected on the ground in the area where their proximity poses a constant threat to peace.

As it is to prove the point, a reserve captain, with neither flak jacket nor helmet, stood on this frontline hillside and casually pointed down to Syrian positions along the line which has divided the two armies in Lebanon since 1982.

"If there had been any serious escalation I would not be standing here like this," he told a small group of reporters being escorted to the forward positions by an Israeli Army anxious to demonstrate its claim that recent Syrian charges about its aggressive intentions in the Bekaa are false.

A 20-minute drive away, at the Israeli regional headquarters - only 25 miles from the



SYRIAN OCCUPIED
ISRAELI OCCUPIED
Gebel Araby
Yama
5 miles

outskirts of Damascus - Colonel Noah, a senior commander on the eastern front, argued that recent Arab warnings of a massive Israeli military build-up were "disinformation spread because of Syria's internal problem".

The colonel pointed to a large map showing the positions occupied by the estimated 30,000 Syrian combat troops now on Lebanese soil. "The region is quiet because, whatever might be said, the governments on both sides do not want it noisy. From a military point of view, I am convinced that isolated incidents can be kept from spreading."

The colonel said that, because of the recent onset of fine weather after the winter rains both the Israeli and Syrian armies had recently undertaken a seasonal adjustment of their positions.

"What has happened, including the arrival of bulldozers to shore-up defences, is no different from what happened on both sides of the red line this time last year."

Despite the superficial calm and the relaxed appearance of the Israeli frontline troops, the long anti-tank ditches stretching for miles on either side of the zigzagging line which divides the armies was a reminder of the ever-present risk of a flare-up posed by their proximity.

According to the Israelis, the last serious incident in the east of Lebanon took place a month ago, when they shelled Palestinian positions close to the Syrian lines, in retaliation for infiltration by a three-man guerrilla squad.

They have made clear that similar limited action will be taken again if Syria fails to restrain the estimated 2,000 to 4,000 Palestinian fighters now in their midst.

With hopes fading in Jerusalem yesterday about the chances of a diplomatic breakthrough to secure the quick release of the three Israelis now being held in Damascus, officers in the Bekaa valley were anxious to make the point that a sudden military escalation was not expected to result. But they did add the cautionary note that "in Lebanon, anything can happen".

Silent citizens' protest

Lebanese to march for peace

From Our Correspondent Beirut

With nine years of war behind them and a tenth in prospect, a group of Lebanese citizens has decided to take to the streets in a march for peace.

Miss Iman Khalifeh, a 29-year-old west Beirut university researcher who is the principal organizer of the demonstration planned for Sunday, says "I hope we will be thousands. We want to make our feelings known. We never had this kind of chance before, really."

The march will be a milestone here because Lebanon has been, to all intents and purposes, devoid of a peace movement. Individual complaints about the brutality of the sectarian battles have not been translated into action since the early months of the civil war, when a few scattered anti-war protest gatherings were held.

The march will coincide with the Lebanese "martyrs' day"

Palestinian shot dead in Cyprus

A Palestinian, Hanna Mukbel, the Cyprus secretary of the Federation of Arab Journalists and head of the Nicosia-based al Sharq news agency, was shot dead on his way to work in Nicosia yesterday. A woman colleague was injured. The gunman escaped by car.

holidays, which commemorates the 1914 execution of 12 Lebanese who had been campaigning for independence from Ottoman Turkish rule.

Miss Khalifeh says this is coincidental. The idea began with a letter, signed by 49 residents from Christian east and Muslim west Beirut, which she sent to local newspapers.

It is hard to predict what kind of turn-out there will be because many in Beirut fear that the demonstrators could become

the target of snipers or of the militiamen still in positions on the streets.

Miss Khalifeh argues that: "We are risking our lives every day - in our homes, in the streets, in our work. So there is nothing new." A researcher at Beirut University's College into the effects of war on children, she says she has never before been involved in either political or social organizing.

The marchers plan to link up at the "Green Line", where rival Christian and Muslim Militia bunkers divide the capital in two. The march will be in silence with the message carried on posters.

TEL AVIV (Reuters) - Some 2,000 Israeli soldiers and Army personnel have been crippled during fighting in the Lebanon in the past two years, the chairman of Israel's disabled soldiers' organization said.

About 400 of these suffered a 50 per cent or more disability, Mr Ya'acov Maoz added.



Danube blues: Prince Philip at yesterday's Vienna conference before attacking the Hainburg project. He is flanked by Heinz Sielmann (left) noted nature writer and Dr Emil Distler, environmentalist.

Warsaw says 686 held after Solidarity May Day protests

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish police detained 686 demonstrators involved in May Day Solidarity protests against the government, the official spokesman announced yesterday.

More than 500 of the protesters had been released. Most had been fined at special court hearings held in many cities over the past two days, but 40 of the demonstrators were still being investigated to determine whether criminal charges would be brought.

The information was disclosed hours before fresh protests were planned by the Solidarity underground in Warsaw and other places to mark the anniversary of the liberal 1791 constitution. Large numbers of police were deployed in the centre of Warsaw in the morning and the authorities seemed to expect unrest later in the evening, after Mass.

Despite the detention of almost 700 protesters and sharp preventive measures against several Western reporters, the

authorities still maintain that the May Day demonstrations were staged by an "insignificant margin" of Polish society.

Colonel Stanislaw Wrona, director of the Polish prison service, supplemented the information from the government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, with an unusual analysis of the status of political prisoners.

Before May Day, the total of political prisoners included 411 under temporary arrest and 61 convicted. Although he denied reports of widespread ill-treatment of political prisoners, he admitted that one Solidarity prisoner on hunger strike, Mr Andrzej Slowik, was being force-fed, his hands and feet held by warders.

Another hunger striker, Mr Jerzy Kropiwnicki, was being artificially fed, but without the use of force, he said.

Political prisoners, unlike common criminals, were allowed to refuse to work, were given normal access to reading material from socialist countries and received food parcels,

letters and visits from relatives, he said.

However, inmates of Barczewo prison, near Olsztyn, were behaving "provocatively", staging cell-by-cell hunger strikes with one prisoner going without food one day and then handing the baton on to the next cell, Mr Slowik and Mr Kropiwnicki, both from Lodz Solidarity, were on longer strikes.

Colonel Wrona said penal service regulations allowed warders to use a number of methods against prisoners who were breaking the rules. These included use of strait-jackets, handcuffs, gas, water, rubber truncheons and solitary confinement.

Paris gas blast

Nanterre (Reuters) - Three people were killed and 15 injured when a gas explosion started a fire which ripped through a four-storey building in this northern suburb of Paris.

Kidnapped Britons 'in good shape'

From Martha de la Cal Lisbon

The 16 British prisoners about to be released by the Unita rebels in Angola are well, according to a released Portuguese prisoner who was with them at the Unita camp near Jambú.

"The English prisoners with Unita were well when I last saw them on April 26 at the camp in Angola," Senhor Joaquim Maria da Silva said. He was one of 66 Portuguese captives who were released by Unita, the guerrilla movement headed by Dr Jonas Savimbi, and returned to Portugal on Wednesday.

Senhor de Silva said the British prisoners were being well treated. "The prisoners are separated by nationality, but are not locked up. They live in two to four together in thatched huts and sleep on straw mattresses and are free to move around the camp," he said.

He said the prisoners were brought together on special occasions.

The British prisoners were captured in north-east Angola in February at Kufundo. They covered between 500 and 600 miles on foot before being driven for three days by truck.

According to the Foreign Office the hostages are: Mr Martin Dougherty, of Westminster Road, Tothill, Swindon, Wilts; Mr William Morgan, of Priory Gardens, Usk, Gwent; Mr Neil Ayres, of Seaview Terrace, Harlepool; Mr Budd Sanders, of Croft Road, Hereford; Mr Howell Lloyd, whose parents live in Borth, Dyfed; Mr Ken Moffat, of Eign Road, Hereford; Mr Dennis Clawson, of Washdyke Lane, Neutchem, Lincoln; Mr Ian Smythe, of Wolsey Close, Worcester Park, London; Mr Tony Dixon, whose father lives in Brignall Garth, Leeds; Mr Alfred Tasker, of Greenroft, Redhill, Hereford; Mr Douglas Samuel, of Windsor Street, Pentre, Mid-Glamorgan; Mr Tom Murphy, of Croft Road, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire; Mr Graham Poplewell, whose parents live in Wilton Crescent, Upper Shirley, Southampton; Mr Ian Fenton, of Sholl House, Overcliffe Drive, Southbourne, Bournemouth; Mr Robin Kennedy, of Swallow Avenue, Skellingthorpe, Lincoln; and Mr Robert Jones, of Grainge Road, Shrewsbury.

Strike call vote by German unions

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The stage was set for one of West Germany's most serious industrial disputes as metal workers in the Stuttgart area voted on their union's call for national strikes over a shorter working week, and a printers' strike left much of the country without newspapers yesterday.

Shortly after 5 am car workers in the giant Mercedes factories near Stuttgart began voting on the call for strikes to enforce the demand for a 35-hour week. The powerful IG Metall union, which is spearheading the campaign, was confident that it would get the necessary 75 per cent support for selective strikes, but the result may not be known until tomorrow.

Some 240,000 workers in 750 engineering works took part in yesterday's ballot in the North Westphalia-Baden area. Similar polls will be held in Hesse next week, and in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most heavily industrialized state, at a date still to be set.

If the union fails to get the overwhelming backing it needs,

the campaign to cut the working week by five hours to open up more jobs for the unemployed will quickly collapse. If the workers vote in favour, however, strikes could begin in a week.

Meanwhile, the printing workers, whose union is equally committed to a 35-hour week, walked out for an hour on Wednesday evening to demonstrate the effect of a seven-hour day. Many cities were left without newspapers and many papers and the weekly magazines printed in Hamburg were only able to print half their normal editions.

The Government has repeatedly described the campaign as foolish and liable to increase rather than diminish unemployment. But so far it has not intervened. The campaign has become rather bitter as many metal workers do not support a lengthy and damaging all-out strike over the issue, and the union leadership - is trying to galvanize its more reluctant members into supporting militant action.

Austrians scolded by Duke

Austria would irrevocably damage its international standing in the conservation world if plans for a power station in a Danube nature reserve went ahead, the Duke of Edinburgh said in Vienna yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

He was speaking to journalists in his capacity as president of the World Wildlife Fund, which last year launched a campaign to preserve Austria's last Danube forest. It is threatened by the Government's plans to construct a power station at Hainburg.

The Duke said he was surprised that in Austria nature reserves were the prerogative of individual provinces and not subject to national law. He said that if a relatively rich country like Austria ignored its conservation responsibilities, one could hardly expect developing nations to look after their natural heritage.

The Duke was due to discuss the issue over lunch with an Austrian minister before setting off to inspect the threatened forest.

54 Namibia detainees to be freed

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

South Africa announced yesterday that 54 detainees who have been held for the past six years without trial at a prison camp near Mariental in Namibia are to be set free.

The announcement, by Dr Willie van Niekerk, the South African Administrator-General in Namibia, throws new light on the recent decision of Mr Kobie Coetsee, the South African Justice Minister, to ban the hearing by the Windhoek Supreme Court of a petition to secure the release of 37 of the prisoners.

Dr van Niekerk said the 54 detainees were being let out because an inquiry by a senior army officer had shown that they no longer posed "a threat to law and order". The release of others was under consideration. Officially there are 146 people in the camp.

Nearly all of these, according to South African sources, are members of or have links with the Swapo guerrillas and were captured during a raid on a Swapo headquarters in southern Angola in 1978.

The announcement of the release coincides with reports in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, that a meeting may be held soon in Lusaka, under the chairmanship of President Kaunda of Zambia, between Swapo, Dr van Niekerk and the multi-party conference (MPC), a group of Namibian political parties.

If this meeting takes place, it would be an important breakthrough, marking the first direct negotiations between Swapo and the MPC parties - dismissed hitherto by Swapo as South African puppets and by Swapo and the representative of Pretoria.

MPC sources in Windhoek insisted yesterday that such a meeting was still speculative.

Tate to be given Rothko paintings

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The Tate Gallery in London is to be given a number of paintings by the important American twentieth century artist, Mark Rothko, as part of a multimillion pound distribution of about 1,000 of his works at present held by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

Mr Donald Blinken, the foundation's president, announced yesterday that its collection of Rothko's works would be dispersed among 19 American and overseas museums. The core of the collection, amounting to 285 paintings, will go to the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

The Tate, which already has a large collection of Rothko's work, will receive between one and 15 paintings. Mr Michael Compton, a senior official from the Tate, is due in the US next week to help with the selection process.

The announcement was made at the opening of a big exhibition of Rothko's paintings at the National Gallery in Washington. The Tate is due to hold a Rothko retrospective in early 1986 which will include the new paintings it will be given by the foundation.

Rothko died in 1970 and the foundation, which was originally set up to administer his estate, was embroiled in a controversy which shook the art world in the US and Europe.

In 1976 a New York judge ruled that three executors of the Rothko estate had acted in a conflict of interest and negligently sold 739 of the artist's paintings for much less than their true value. Mr Blinken was brought in as president of a newly-constituted board of directors of the foundation.

He said yesterday that the foundation had decided it could best serve Rothko and the public by distributing its collection rather than holding on to it itself.

Coup plotters 'executed'

Yaounde (AFP) - Thirty-five people were executed for their part in the abortive coup against President Apul Biza on April 6, according to sources here. Their identity was not known.

The executions took place at dawn on Tuesday at Mbalmayo, 30 miles south of here. They followed a trial which started last Friday and ended on Monday. The Government refused to acknowledge that a trial was taking place.

World record in mine accidents

Johannesburg - Last year 831 people died in South Africa's mines, 230 more than in 1982, according to the annual report of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. Most of the deaths occurred in gold and coal mines (Michael Hornsby writes).

The safety record at South African mines has improved in recent years, but the accident rate is thought to be the highest in the world.

Joe Cocker in Vienna court

Vienna (AP) - Joe Cocker, the rock singer, and his manager, Martin Bialas, were taken to court here after a night in jail as the Austrian authorities investigated a complaint that the singer accepted payment for a rock concert but failed to show up. Organizers of the May Day concert claim they lost about £15,000 because of Cocker's non-appearance.

House collapse

Cairo (AP) - At least 20 people were killed and more than two dozen injured when an old four-storey house collapsed in a crowded residential district, police said.

Correction

Right-of-way rules on French roads, mentioned in a report from Paris on May 1, are 180 years old, not 18.

Delors gives warning of more austerity to come

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Government's programme of economic austerity, introduced in March, 1983, and due to run until the end of 1984, is to be extended at least until the end of 1985 and made even tougher, Mr Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, indicated during a debate in the National Assembly.

"In 1985, alas, the budget will be of a rigour that will be without comparison to that of 1984", Mr Delors told deputies in Wednesday night's debate on a Bill to aid new industries.

The increased rigour would be required largely because of President Mitterrand's promise to reduce taxes and levies by one percentage point next year from the present 45 per cent of gross domestic products he explained. That will entail the

loss of some 40bn francs (£3.5bn).

Vigorously rejecting calls from the Communists and the left-wing Ceres faction of the Socialist Party for an immediate boost to the economy to curb the rise in unemployment, Mr Delors said that a boost would only lead to higher imports, an increased foreign debt, and aggravation of the crisis.

● EEC report: The EEC's Economic and Social Committee described the economic situation in France as "encouraging" in a report published in Paris yesterday.

● Pay increase: The Cabinet announced a 3.4 per cent increase in the national minimum wage yesterday, 1 per cent more than was required to compensate for inflation since the last increase.

Rights plea by Pope in Seoul

Seoul (Reuters, AP) - The Pope, beginning a visit to South Korea yesterday urged the authorities to restore all human rights and said he was praying for the Korean peninsula to be reunited.

In his arrival address in Seoul, where he observed his custom and kissed the earth, the Pope referred constantly to "Korea" rather than "South Korea."

He said: "I pray that your beloved fatherland, now tragically divided in two for over a generation, will be reunited in one family, not through confrontation and hostility, but through dialogue, mutual trust and brotherly love."

Broaching the delicate question of political freedom and workers' rights, he said he hoped South Korea's economic progress would lead to "a more human society of true justice and peace, where all life is upheld as sacrosanct, and where to govern is to serve, where no one is used as a tool, where no one left out and no one downtrodden."

An estimated one million people lined the 12-mile route from the airport to the centre of Seoul as the Pope went by at the start of his four-day visit in a specially adapted white vehicle enclosed in a bullet-proof glass box.

His first engagement was at a shrine beside the wide Han river where 10,000 Korean Catholics were beheaded in the nineteenth century. The Pope sprinkled holy water, burnt incense and said the Lord's Prayer in the Korean language, which he had learnt from a South Korean priest in the Vatican.

At Seoul airport, where the Pope was greeted by President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea, he delighted his audience from a country where the majority of people practice Buddhism or Confucianism, by using a saying of Confucius in his first public address to them. "Is it not a joy indeed to have a friend come from afar?"

● Student clash: More than 1,000 students clashed with riot police at Sungkyunkwan University.

The Government of President Chun Doo Hwan is calling for democratic reforms. The clash came shortly after the Pope arrived.

Leading article, page 11



Arctic adventurer: David Hempleman Adams, aged 26, of Bristol walking towards his goal in his attempt to be the first person to walk alone to the magnetic North Pole.

5000 held in Delhi protest over Punjab

Delhi (Reuters) - At least 5,000 supporters of an Indian opposition alliance were arrested in Delhi yesterday during a protest against Mrs Indira Gandhi's handling of the Punjab crisis.

The protesters were led by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, president of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Party (BJP), and Mr Charan Singh, a former Prime Minister and head of the People's Party.

The two parties are partners in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the main challenger to Mrs Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) in general elections due in the next eight months.

Mr Vajpayee said that at least 40,000 NDA supporters would descend on Delhi over the next week, defying a ban on meetings and gatherings.

Yesterday's rally was held a few hundred yards from the

parliament building in the city centre. The demonstrators shouted slogans against Mrs Gandhi and waved party flags as police herded them into buses.

A senior police officer said they would be held in a football stadium until the authorities decided what action to take.

Mr Vajpayee told a large rally in Delhi on Wednesday that Congress (I) was in league with Punjab's extremists, and that its policy of appeasement was threatening national unity. He said he had information that a leading Sikh extremist leader had met Mrs Gandhi last March, and challenged the Government to refute his allegations.

At least 200 people have died in the Punjab in sectarian clashes over the past six months, as a militant Hindu backlash has grown against Sikh extremist attacks.

Jackson in Farrakhan flop

From Christopher Thomas Dallas

The Rev Jesse Jackson was taken his first serious public passing over the Louis Farrakhan affair. They call it the Farrakhan Flap. He floundered badly in a television debate, appealing weekly and in vain to "forgive and move on."

His attackers were Mr Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, the two other contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination. It was the worst moment for the Baptist preacher in four national television debates. Some say the Farrakhan affair is blighting his campaign to be acknowledged as the leader of America's blacks, a post held vacant since

the death of Martin Luther King.

Mr Farrakhan is black. So is Mr Milton Coleman, a reporter on the Washington Post, whose life he allegedly threatened by writing about Mr Jackson's predilection for referring to "Hymies" and "Hymietown" (New York).

"I dissociate myself from the message," Mr Jackson declared. "There is a distinct difference. You see."

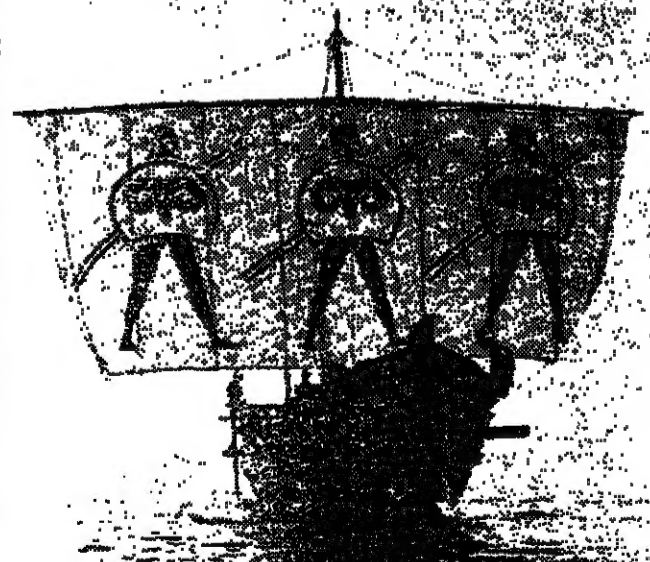
If there is, Mr Mondale could not see it. He called Mr Farrakhan's alleged remarks poison. "I'm a preacher's kid. I believe in redemption," he said. "But boy, that was going awful far."

Mr Farrakhan is leader of a

group called the Nation of Islam. Mr Jackson hotly defended him, saying that there must be the moral capacity to reach out, to make room, to forgive. He claimed that Mr Farrakhan's remarks needed to be taken in context and seen as an "apocalyptic message" in Islamic style.

His most bungled response was to attack Mr Mondale, who is opposed to capital punishment, for appearing to "have no problem defending the rights of murderers" but unable to forgive an exaggerated remark. The audience winced at that.

The debate, the last in a series organized in different states by the League of Women Voters, was the high spot of campaigning for the Texas caucuses



Setting sail: The Argonauts of Timothy Severin, the British explorer, setting out from Volos, Greece, to retrace the route of the ancient "Golden Fleece" expedition.

1984年5月4日

SPECTRUM

Foreigners have always beaten a path to the Moscow door of dissident Roy Medvedev. But suddenly a police guard at that door is turning visitors away and an observation post is watching Medvedev's every move. Richard Owen talks to him about the change

Door closes on the last dissident

Moscow Whenever Roy Medvedev leaves his Moscow flat these days he has to negotiate his way past three hefty policemen sitting bottom to bottom on the cold stone staircase outside his door. He greets them affably, and they usually reply in kind. There is no need to follow him down the stairs, since his every movement is watched from a special observation post in the block of flats opposite.

Medvedev is even aware of how the KGB describe him as he leaves the building, since he and his family can pick up the police radio transmissions. The subject is wearing blue trousers and carrying a briefcase and a plastic bag. The disembodied voice says before Medvedev climbs into a car or heads for the bus and Metro, shadowed by his faithful minders.

Until February 23 this year, Medvedev was almost certainly the most visited Soviet dissident in Moscow. A self-proclaimed Marxist historian of calm, sober and well-informed views, he was able to offer valuable insights into the workings of the Soviet system, using his detailed knowledge of party history to evaluate what is now going on in the Politburo, and what might happen next.

Sceptics said he was protected by Yuri Andropov and was fed disinformation by the KGB who knew perfectly well that he was regarded as an oracle by many foreigners desperate for information in a system of paranoid secrecy. Journalists and senior diplomats still beat a path to his door, making the journey out to the distant suburb on the Leningrad highway, to take Medvedev to a restaurant - observed from the next table - or to one of the foreigners' compounds, which are guarded by police.

Thanks to telephone bugging and surveillance, the KGB is perfectly aware of whom he sees, where he goes and what he says. The object of the KGB exercise, it seems, is to prevent visitors seeing Medvedev in his flat, not to prevent him from leaving it. That, after all, would be house arrest, which would arouse an international outcry of a kind the new Chernenko leadership could do without.

The Kremlin has used similar tactics against Elena Bonner, the wife of the dissident physicist Dr Andrei Sakharov, who is cut off from foreign

correspondents by police whenever she visits Moscow from their place of exile in Gorky, several hundred miles away. The authorities have evidently decided they can afford to risk appearing repressive, or simply silly, in the eyes of world opinion by restricting visitors to the few remaining senior dissidents.

Medvedev lives in a tall, uninspiring block of flats in a nondescript housing estate on the outskirts of Moscow, rather than in one of the older, more elegant, blocks in the city centre where officially approved intellectuals can expect to be housed (and indeed where even Dr Sakharov still has a flat, thanks to his status as an academician, although he cannot use it. Some of the greatly diminished band of Moscow dissidents regard Medvedev with suspicion, and in the past have suggested that he works directly or indirectly for the KGB. But like most enclosed worlds, Moscow dissident circles are notorious for their bitchiness, and Medvedev certainly enjoys none of the privileges that a Kremlin stooge might expect.

Now nearly 60, Roy Alexandrovich is the twin brother of Zhores Medvedev, the dissident scientist who lives in London and works at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill. The brothers work closely together even when separated, and Roy has either contributed to, or jointly written, their books on Krushchev, Andropov and Soviet science.

But Roy enjoys a reputation in his own right as the author of several well-balanced, perceptive and well-researched books on Soviet history, including his monumental study of Stalinism *Let History Judge* and other seminal works such as *On Socialist Democracy* and *An End to Silence*. He writes them in a cramped study in his tower block, a room with barely enough space for his typewriter, the glass-fronted bookcases containing his own works, and a couch for visitors.

He has lived by publication abroad since he was sacked from his job as senior researcher and head of department at the Soviet Academy of Pedagogical Sciences in the early 1970s. He has been harassed, persecuted and warned, but not - so far - arrested, tried or exiled - the fate most of his fellow dissidents suffered in the late 1970s, when Andropov, then head



Roy Medvedev: "Solzhenitsyn is in Vermont, Sakharov in Gorky, most of the others are silent. There is only me"

of the KGB, launched his remarkably successful campaign to neutralize and disperse the dissident movement.

Roy Medvedev is the sole surviving member of the band of leading dissidents that dominated the Moscow scene in the late 1960s and '70s. He wryly recalls that when President Nixon came to Moscow the KGB sealed off the homes of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Dr Andrei Sakharov and Roy Medvedev, in case of unspecified trouble. "Solzhenitsyn is in Vermont, Sakharov is in Gorky, and most of the others are silent, there is only me", Medvedev says.

His troubles really started in January 1983, when Andropov - supposedly his protector - was still alive. Out of the blue Medvedev received a summons to the Moscow prosecutors office, where, in the presence of KGB officers, he was warned to stop publishing "anti-Soviet" articles and books abroad. He asked his interrogators to specify anything he had written or said which could be construed as anti-Soviet.

When they failed to do so he said he would carry on writing and researching as before. (His most recent publication in Britain was a biography of Nikita Khrushchev, who is now a non-person in the Soviet Union, but whose fascinating career Medvedev has done more to illuminate than any other Russian scholar, either inside or outside the Soviet Union.)

The prosecutor also warned him to stop seeing foreign diplomats and journalists since some of them were

"dubious characters and spies". Medvedev replied that he would receive anyone who asked to see him, and that it was the job of the authorities, not his, to decide who should be allowed into Russia and who should be kept out because of "dubious" activities.

The warning was something of a puzzle, since it was not followed up at the time by any further action. Possibly the authorities wanted to gauge western reaction to a deliberate act of harassment against a man who enjoys a high reputation in the West, not least in left-wing circles. Many of his articles appear in western socialist publications.

It is also possible that hardline ideologists, backed by Chernenko, were irritated by the fact that Medvedev seemed able to express unorthodox opinions with impunity, and wield influence abroad. In any event, barely a week after Andropov had died and Chernenko succeeded him as party leader, the police suddenly materialized on Medvedev's doorstep.

There was no warning, no official announcement, and no explanation of why this action had been taken, or how long it was likely to last. At first, his uninvited guests were plain-clothes agents from the KGB, but fairly soon - possibly when the KGB became bored with their rather fruitless vigil - they were replaced by ordinary policemen, few of whom had the faintest idea who it was they were guarding.

"They knew I was a writer",

Medvedev says with a gentle smile, "but that was about all. After a while some of them started asking my neighbours about me, and one of the policemen somehow got the idea that I was a writer of detective fiction. In fact, he asked me if I could lend him a detective novel to read while he was sitting on my staircase doing night duty. I lent him one from my collection, and he returned it politely the next day without a word. He has not asked again."

Medvedev's neighbours are on the whole bewildered by the latest turn of events and are not sure what to make of it. They have of course always been aware that there were "strange goings-on" in the writer's flat at the top of the building, but some were not sure why a man who sat typing all day should have a constant stream of visitors in expensive foreign cars. The appearance of the police guards and the KGB observation post have increased the neighbourhood's bewilderment. Is Medvedev perhaps a dangerous criminal? Possibly, but on the other hand he seems to be able to come and go at will, so perhaps he is in fact a most important person who has been granted government protection. On the whole, Medvedev says, the neighbours keep their distance, but are friendly and even sympathetic.

Perhaps the most irritating aspect of the situation to Medvedev is that the policemen on the stairs block the way not only to foreigners but also to the pool of young Russian translators and research assistants on whom he relies for his work. Technically, of course, preventing one Soviet citizen from visiting another is an offence even under Soviet law, and both Medvedev and his assistants could lodge a complaint. But that, he thinks, is precisely what the authorities want. Once he starts complaining he can be publicly branded as a "troublemaker". He prefers to carry on working as best he can, in the hope that the police - or whoever put them there - will eventually tire of their pointless assignment.

"It really is rather absurd, don't you think?" he says quietly, looking across the table for confirmation. "Three grown men sitting reading detective novels outside my flat while I work inside from 8am to 11pm. I really think they ought to do something useful as well."

There are lighter moments, or at least incidents which amuse Medvedev himself. At one point, walking down a Moscow street, he stopped short, turned on his heel and confronted the agent he knew was following him. "Look", he said, "I am rather tired and I've had enough of this. Why don't we go home?" "I am at home", the man mumbled, and walked away pretending he had nothing to do with Medvedev at all.

Medvedev's hope is that the vigil will only last until the summer, when (like most Russians) he leaves Moscow for the countryside, to rest at a dacha. But, despite his gentle irony, self-depreciation and defiant optimism, the strain of being Russia's only surviving important dissident is beginning to show in his crumpled face and his rather slow, stooping walk.

He will not give in, "because if I said: All right, I will not meet foreigners I will not write articles, I will just sit at home and write books which will never be published, they would consider that a total victory. There is no concept of dialogue or compromise in our country. Either you make no concessions of any kind, or you give in completely. And I will not give in."

moreover...
Miles Kington

Inaction in Europe

Recent TV series have ignited interest in India and China, and now Channel 4 is starting a new one on Africa. The only place that nobody ever seems to make spectacular programmes about is:

EUROPE:

A great new portrait of this age-old continent, from *Moreover Productions*.

Opening Shot. In the Black Forest, Germany. The presenter appears from behind a tree.

Presenter: The inhabitants of Europe are known as Europeans, yet they vary tremendously. Some live on lonely cliffs like these, some in big cities.

Cut to a busy Parisian street. The presenter steps out of a new space-age loo in the street.

Presenter: It is now believed that over 90 per cent of all Europeans live in big cities like this. But it was not always thus.

Presenter is run over by a French driver who does not stop. Cut to a huge forest in Finland. A new presenter steps from behind a tree and looks cautiously both ways before he addresses the camera.

Presenter: Remote, almost uninhabited, this Finnish forest plays a very real part in the life of the city. For these trees are turned into... paper.

Shot of tree felling. Cut to lorry being loaded. Mix to romantic footage of lorries pounding through the night. Cut to front page of The Sun: "You're a nutter, Gaddafi!" The presenter lowers it.

Presenter: But what are they really like, these warlike but intelligent Europeans? Some of them lead a totally urban life.

Cut to typical English family, who have just finished high tea.

Dad: Where you going to, son?

Son: Down the disco.

Dad: The disco? That's the third time this evening! What for?

Son: Doss around a bit, see if there's any talent.

Cut to presenter, in a small Spanish village.

Presenter: Yet some Europeans retain their age-old customs.

Cut to little Spanish family. They speak in Spanish. There are subtitles. Where are you going to, my son?

To the traditional fishermen's singing and dancing.

That is good, my son. What for?

Doss around a bit. See if there's any talent.

Cut to presenter in St Paul's Rome.

Presenter: The Europeans have left behind many marvellous monuments, though their purpose is doubtful, and many have been attacked by thieves and grave robbers.

Cut to the door of a small English church on which is a notice reading: "Because of recent vandalism, this church is locked. Keys may be obtained from the vicar. Entry is free but there is an admission charge of £5." The presenter walks into shot.

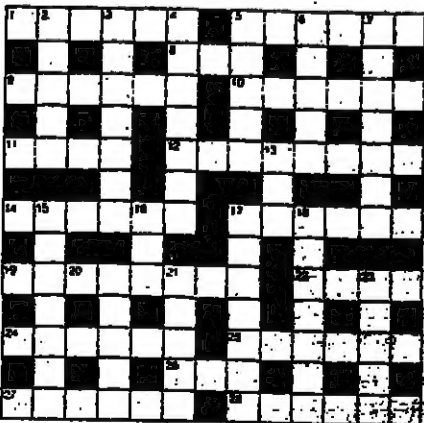
Presenter: This is St Suscipion's, Nether Flagon. Who was St Suscipion? Well, it's now believed he may have come from Thrace, near modern Yugoslavia.

Cut to border of modern Yugoslavia, where presenter is leaning on a barbed wire fence. There is shouting in the background.

Presenter: Europe is at peace, yet everywhere there are borders. Europe was more united, 2,000 years ago under the Romans than it is now. What were they like, these Romans? Next week, we'll be looking for the answer in a small chapel in Heligoland.

The shouting increases and shots ring out. The presenter falls, riddled with bullets. Cut to Dutch windmill by canal. Credits: "The makers of Europe would like to thank all the museums and libraries in the world. Thanks."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 333)



- ACROSS**
- Wholesale stock dealer (6)
 - Double marriage (6)
 - Be in debt to (3)
 - FBI men (6)
 - Arm bracelet (6)
 - Move gradually (4)
 - Hypocritical (3,5)
 - Moon goddess (6)
 - Formal argument (6)
 - Firewood (8)
 - Inside info (4)
 - Horses, feet (6)
 - Encourage (6)
 - 3000-300 megahertz (1,1,1)
 - Cattle fly (6)
 - Cowardly (6)
- DOWN**
- Body part (3)
 - Waiting game (6)
 - Horse show (6)
 - Happy party (6)
 - Third Great (6)
 - Lifeguard (6)
 - Envy (6)
 - Atrocious (6)
 - Polychrome (6)
 - White Mountain (6)
 - Confuse (6)
 - Give away (6)
 - Courtesy (6)
- SOLUTION TO No 332**
- ACROSS:** 8 Big bang theory 9 One 10 14 11 Basic 13 Bitten 16 N. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
- DOWN:** 1 Absorb 2 Egress 3 Barbican 4 Egress 5 Thus 6 Forage 7 Wyvern 8 ACF 14 Strategy 15 Roe 16 Youths 17 Regain 18 Swathe 20 Frugal 21 Reside 23 Lied

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



Unbeaten colts: Lear Fan (left) and El Gran Señor

● **Pound-stretching:** The Times guide to value-for-money in the ten most popular holiday destinations

● **Family Money:** Tax relief on business expansion schemes

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Drink tries Spanish whites; In the Garden; Family Life on older mothers; review of the month's rock and jazz records; Bridge; Chess and the solution of the Times Jumbo Crossword; The Week Ahead

● **Racing previews the clash of colts in the 2,000 Guineas - Lear Fan and the Irish hope El Gran Señor**

● **Spoils of war: Has D-Day yielded up all its secrets?**

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Not the only British success in the world

"...It's amazing - I read somewhere that he earns £800 a minute and he's only 30 something..." Thus began

Private Eye's Great Bores of Today on Andrew Lloyd Webber. Geoffrey Wansell, in a profile in the *Sunday Telegraph* magazine, was in much the same mood. "Not even Cole Porter enjoyed so much success so young", he gushed, with what I suspect was unconscious irony. Cole Porter was the only major American songwriter who did not get going until his forties. Otherwise, Richard Rodgers had his first song in a Broadway show at the age of 16; Dorothy Fields wrote a three-million seller at 22; and, by the time of his death at only 38, George Gershwin had written dozens of popular standards plus *Porgy and Bess* and *An American in Paris*, not to mention "Rhapsody in Blue".

Probably Andrew Lloyd Webber does not pay much attention to the adulation of the trends, perhaps remembering how quickly they consigned Lionel Bart, the West End whizz-kid of the 1960s to the dustbin of history. Mr Lloyd Webber is a successful theatre songwriter, and deserves a more considered appreciation than the excesses of some recent articles. However, I would like to correct just two misconceptions related to him.

The first is that he is the only Englishman "to beat Broadway at its own game" and enjoy success in New York. There is currently in the West End a revival of the 1939 show *Mr Cinders*, with music by Vivian Ellis. Its lyricist, Clifford Grey, was a Birmingham songwriter who had a string of Broadway hits a half-century before *Evita* hit town, and whose partners included George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Sigmund Romberg and Vincent Youmans.

Grey had a gift for writing simple, sentimental lyrics that

were never too cloying. His first big hit, "If You Were the Only Girl in the World" (1916), is an obvious example.

In 1919, he went to New York and enjoyed a decade of success, with seven shows on Broadway in 1925 alone. *Sally* (1921) was the fourth longest-running musical of the 1920s, and *Hit the Deck* (1927) one of the most influential. He also wrote for Hollywood's early talkies, beginning with Lubitsch's *Love Parade* (1929), which Theodore Huff called "the first truly cinematic screen musical".

The second misconception arises from the first, and was referred to by Bernard Levin in his excellent "obituary" of the frightful Jean Seberg, when he mentioned "the modern musical comedy, that wholly indigenous American art-form". Most people seem to follow this line of thinking, that the British have an inbuilt inferiority where the musical is concerned, which is why the success of *Evita* and *Cats* must appear all the more remarkable.

However, that "wholly indigenous American art-form" was more or less invented by a

team of two Englishmen and one highly Anglophile American. At least one of the names, P. G. Woodhouse, should be familiar to Lloyd Webber based a few years ago Lloyd Webber based his musical *Jeeves* on the Woodhouse character. The other Englishman was Guy Bolton and the American was Jerome Kern. The series of shows by the partnership at Broadway's Princess Theatre from 1915 onwards changed the course of American musical theatre.

Bolton's light, witty books, Woodhouse's lyrics and Kern's music represented a complete break from the pseudo-European operettas and revues that had previously dominated New York. They were the first true "musical-comedies".

If only they had created their Princess shows in London, the story of the British musical might have been very different. As it is, the two Englishmen remain the proverbial prophets without honour in the West End. The creator of Jeeves and Wooster is hardly recognized as the writer of "Bill" (from *Whom You Will* or "Till the Clouds Roll By". Of his biographers,

only Benny Green has done justice to his songwriting career.

On his eightieth birthday, Woodhouse received a telegram from Richard Rodgers: "On this happy day I wish to thank you on behalf of Larry Hart, Oscar Hammerstein and myself for all you taught us through the years. The British were on Broadway long before Andrew Lloyd Webber and it's not Woodhouse's fault that the Americans took more notice of what he was doing than his compatriots did."

Plum's first lyric, "Put Me In My Little Cell" was a novelty song for a 1904 London show called *Sergeant Brue*.

There are pleasant little spots my heart is fixed on, Down at Parkhurst or at Portland on the sea, And some put up at Holloway and Brixton, But Pentonville is good enough for me.

It may sound a little too cute for some tastes but it is better than anything from Jean Seberg.

Mark Steyn



Andrew Lloyd Webber, Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin: Success came young for them all

1984/5/4

FRIDAY PAGE

Madeleine Kingsley reports on a sport for the privileged few

Pukka chukka girls

An ancient Persian epic poem, the *Shahnamah*, tells how the king "with happy heart" watched polo played by 70 veiled ladies of his court. Red pottery figures surviving from the Tang dynasty depict Chinese women riders in mid-chukka. But what has happened to our honourable tradition of stick-and-ball? As the season's first matches begin at Smith's Lawn in Windsor Great Park, home of the Guards Polo Club, the modern fields is strikingly bereft of women riders.

Of the 500 serious and regular members of the country's main clubs - the Guards, Cowdray Park,

Cirencester and Ham - only five or six are women.

But you can count any number of girl grooms meticulously preparing ponies for this extremely tough, socially esoteric and privileged sport. The game is so taxing on the horses that players change mounts at least once - more if possible - during a half-hour match.

One groom said: "Afterwards, the gentlemen go off to the pavilion for their iced Pimm's. We buy our crisps and coke from a caravan kiosk, then take our ponies back to the yard. We rub them down and rug them up. Often we're still cleaning tack at 8.30pm."

VICTORIA GRACE and her three sisters are among the few women who play polo. Victoria, aged 17, already has a handicap of 0. She has been riding since she was two years old, and at five went on her first all-day hunt, receiving the fox's brush.

Her progression to polo playing was a natural one. Her father, Peter Grace, a New Zealander, runs Britain's largest commercial polo school, the Rangitiki, where lessons start from £50. Lady pupils at the school have included at least two secretaries, a school teacher and a group of convent schoolgirls. "Victoria's handicap is extremely good for a girl her age," says her proud father. "She could jolly well make it by the end of the season."

Victoria is games captain of her convent school The Maris at Sunninghill, Berks, and is studying for A-levels. She hopes to take her Cambridge entrance exams and read veterinary medicine. Slightly shy, slim and fashion-conscious, Victoria confounds the expectation that polo women are a heavy breed with more thigh muscle than sense.

She plays at No 1 in the Rangitiki team which won last year's Social Cup and last year's Jaipur Trophy. Her mother,

Elizabeth Grace, said: "It was unusual and rather nice for 'Tor' to have received her award from another woman, the Maharani of Jaipur. We had a divine celebration - in fact polo supplies endless excuses for super parties."

In August, Victoria will captain a British Pony Club girls' team on a tour of the United States. But she will miss the start of this season at home, having promised not to ride until her exams finish in June.

The last time I rode seriously was at Christmas, when Daddy took me on holiday to Spain. Holiday! We tried out 50 polo ponies for possible purchase in three days.

"Polo's obviously not expensive for me - I'm lucky to have it on the doorstep. I can ride whatever horse is going well for me. I came off a couple of seasons ago and chipped a shoulder bone, but I haven't had any serious accidents. I don't think you'd play if you were at all timid because the thrill of the game is its speed."

But Victoria is always careful and has never been allowed to pick up bad habits. "Daddy always instilled in us that the rules are for safety and the game is only dangerous if you foul." "We've certainly no special club facilities, no showers of our own. After a match you just spray on masses of Givenchy and hope for the best."



Victoria: 'After a match you just spray on masses of Givenchy and hope for the best'

High Goals and handicaps

The word polo derives from the Tibetan word *pala*, a ball. A polo match is divided into sections, called chukkas, each lasting 7½ minutes.

The word chukka comes from the Farsi *chagan*, meaning small ball.

There are four players in a team, number three being the key or "pivot" player.

Each player has a handicap, established seasonally by the sport's governing body

- the Hurlingham Polo Association - and ranging from -2 to 10. Unlike golf, the handicap increases with the player's skill.

Match play is at three levels, depending on the aggregate handicap of the team. Low Goal Polo represents a combined handicap of 4-8, Medium Goal 9-15 and High Goal 17-22. Low Goal matches comprise four

chukkas, Medium Goal five and High Goal six.

A horse may travel as much as eight miles in two chukkas and gallop at a speed of 30-40 miles an hour.

A first class polo pony could cost £5,000 and upwards of £50 a week in livery. Annual club membership of the Guards Polo Club is £750, although membership of small local clubs may be as little as £40.

RENATA COLEMAN is a German-born divorcee of 37, whose team, *La Vicina*, once defeated a side including Prince Charles 12½-3. Mrs Coleman is a graduate of the LSE who came to the game late - only 10 years ago. She has a pretty country house in Binfield, Berkshire, a flat in Eaton Square and condominium in Palm Beach. Her teenage son is at Gordonstoun and her daughter attends Heathfield.

At one time she kept a team of 30 horses near Cowdray Park, but this season she has "nothing to play on", having flown her five remaining mounts to Palm Beach where she has great hopes of putting together a crack High Goal team. She had a handicap of 1, but injury forced it back.

"To be taken seriously as a woman, I believe you've simply got to have your own team," she said. "I'd like to make up a team including top internationals. But to attract their game, provide them with mounts and accommodation for a two month season would cost a minimum of \$300,000. That's why I'm putting out feelers to see if I can arrange sponsorship from one of the big American cosmetic houses." (Sponsorship is commonplace in America).

The Irish Club turned down Renata's first application for membership with an "absolute not". Now she is a life member. "Polo is not a girl's sport and I think it can never become one," she said. "But I've tried to give up polo and it's impossible. It has gripped me like a disease."

old, Alastair, and a small country house. "My husband would certainly help financially if he could, but as things stand I can just about cover my costs - about £5,000 a season - by working. I edit a house magazine for a small dairy and I keep 11 horses in livery for other players along with my own five ponies."

"Binny, who's my best pony, is 13 and ready to retire at the end of the season, so we'll start breeding from her. It's up at 8.30 to work like mad and then by three, at least two days a week, I'm off to play chukkas at Cowdray."

At the weekends, James Black, Alastair and his nanny come along to watch. "James isn't too keen on my polo priorities, but he copes. He has a lovely time chatting to the wives in the pavilion. He claims, mind you, to be President of the anti-Polo Association."

own and her husband's horses. Claire takes Pony Club polo courses every holiday and teaches private students. She is also one of Britain's leading breeders of polo ponies.

"The summer polo season is always my most frantic time. Normally I have a nanny for these months, but at the moment I'm managing with someone to help in the house and cook."

This season Claire will - by invitation - play with a Brazilian team *Ipenema*. She has no particular feelings about encouraging other women to play. "I think girls riders are basically more interested in eventing because it offers them more opportunity. After all, before you can play polo you've got to find seven more players for the team and the opportunity to train. Most women who do play are those brought up in the game."

"I've seen some natural chivalry in Latin countries, but over here I sometimes think there's a contrary feeling among the men - that they think 'if we give the girl a few blows to start with she might wither'."

CLAIRE TOMLINSON plays High Goal, has a handicap of 4 and is acknowledged to be the world's top woman player. "I certainly never intended to play seriously," she said. "As a child we had our own field in Hertfordshire, and so I picked up the game naturally. Then at Oxford the university team was also short of players and it was a choice between me or two complete beginners, so they asked me. It was slightly tricky because my father coached the Cambridge team."

"Then I married Simon (he was an Army undergraduate who also played polo) I meant to give up, thinking a polo-playing wife was a contradiction in terms. It was he who objected: 'Who the hell's going to school my ponies then?', so I just kept on playing, and ride 365 days a year, even when pregnant."

Claire and her husband both play at the Cirencester club and have their own team named *Los Locos* - The Crazy Ones.

Besides looking after their three children and schooling her



Renata: 'To be taken seriously as a woman, you've simply got to have your own team'

LAVINIA BLACK (handicap 2), a member of Cowdray Park, looks the classic English horsewoman. She has just returned from captaining a women's team in Brunel. At the Sultan's invitation they took on and beat the Brunel police and were only beaten in the finals by the Royal Armed Forces.

But, in general, she has little respect for women players. "All women polo is pretty deadly," she says. "We haven't the physical strength to hit the ball anywhere near as far as men, so women play the game like a lot of old chickens scratching around in a barn. We need more men to open the game up."

She has inherited her highly competitive spirit from her father. He ran a family firm, the Maidengrove, with Lavinia, her sister and brother. "He



Lavinia: 'I was playing match polo at five months pregnant'

raised me with the view that it is no good playing unless you go out there to win. My ambition continues to be to play High Goal polo and attain a handicap of 3. I was playing match polo at five months pregnant, in my father's old breeches. I'm afraid I had a bad fall at Windsor and



Claire: 'As a child we had our own field, so I picked up the game naturally'

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The colonel's complaint

Colonel Gaddafi's health in general, and his eyes and his psychiatric health in particular, are beginning to assume the importance of Mr Konstantin Chernenko's chest, or the late Mr Yuri Andropov's kidneys. Loss of sight would be particularly devastating for a Middle Eastern dictator.

Apparently the Foreign Office has forbidden the Scottish surgeon, who recently went to Libya, to comment on his visit, but well-informed sources in London say that unless there have been some very recent developments his eyes are in good order and his eyesight excellent.

But trained observers are less certain about his psychiatric health. There seems no doubt that he can be informal and charming, but there are numerous reports that he hears voices from time to time and goes into the desert to communicate with them. Auditory hallucinations would be considered a worrying symptom and are usually indicative of schizophrenia. He certainly looks surly, isolates himself from the community and trusts very few people.

The way he is alleged to have dealt with a rumoured recent



Gaddafi communicates with 'voices'

assassination attempt is quoted as an example of his detached ruthlessness: he was offered, it was said, plants with explosives hidden in the pot by some distant kinsmen. He affected great pleasure at the gift, but suggested that as he was about to go out they should accompany him with their plants but in a different car; this branch of the family will be no further trouble.

Eye problems, many of which can lead to blindness, are

common in the Middle East. It is suspected that his recent so-called "corneal growth" is no more than a small ptergium, a yellow stained unsightly jelly-like mass growing in the cornea, common in people exposed to sun. It is benign and only very rarely reaches the pupil where it could interfere with sight, and it is easily removed. The only malignant tumour which affects the cornea is Bowen's tumour which is very slow growing and excessively rare: it is thought most unlikely that Colonel Gaddafi would have this.

The Colonel, born in the poverty of a Beduin tent, might well have been expected to have had trachoma, a chlamydial eye infection of childhood. If he did his eyes now bear no signs of past trouble. He also seems to have avoided the other ophthalmic problem common in people exposed to sun: early cataracts.

Arabs, for unexplained reasons, are particularly likely to suffer after a comparatively trivial infection from uveitis, an infection of the inner eye. Retinal detachment is also common in Arab races, but with them, as with other patients, it is usually a problem of middle age.

A new pain killer

Controlling pain is an art, the practice of which requires a knowledge of the patient's personality, his disease, and the pharmacological properties of the analgesics available. No one drug is suitable for all cases, and all if they are effective, carry the risk of side effects, over dosage or misuse. A new drug, meptidin, (Meptid), has recently been made available to general practitioners and heralds a new pharmaceutical battle, this time for the large section of the analgesic market at present dominated by distalgic.

Distalgic, a compound of dextropropoxyphene and paracetamol, is frequently prescribed by doctors for mild to moderate pain. But its use has been criticized by the media and some coroners following patients' deaths from what they see as unwelcome properties of the drug. Distalgic in overdose is toxic, as dextropropoxyphene is a respiratory depressant and paracetamol attacks the liver.

Meptidin, the new drug, is claimed to have fewer side effects, such as dizziness, nausea and constipation, than distalgic and to be minimally toxic.

Baby boost?

There was good news for women at the recent BMA scientific meeting. Many have feared that having treatment for pre-malignant disease of the cervix would reduce the chance of having a baby. Mr Michael Hare, a consultant gynaecologist, suggested that the lasers used to treat suspicious cell changes may actually improve chances of conception.

He based his comments on some of his patients who had previously had difficulty in starting a family, but who conceived after laser treatment. He suggests that the cause may be that in the few women who produce antibodies to sperm the antibody production may be centred in the layer of epithelium which removed by the laser.

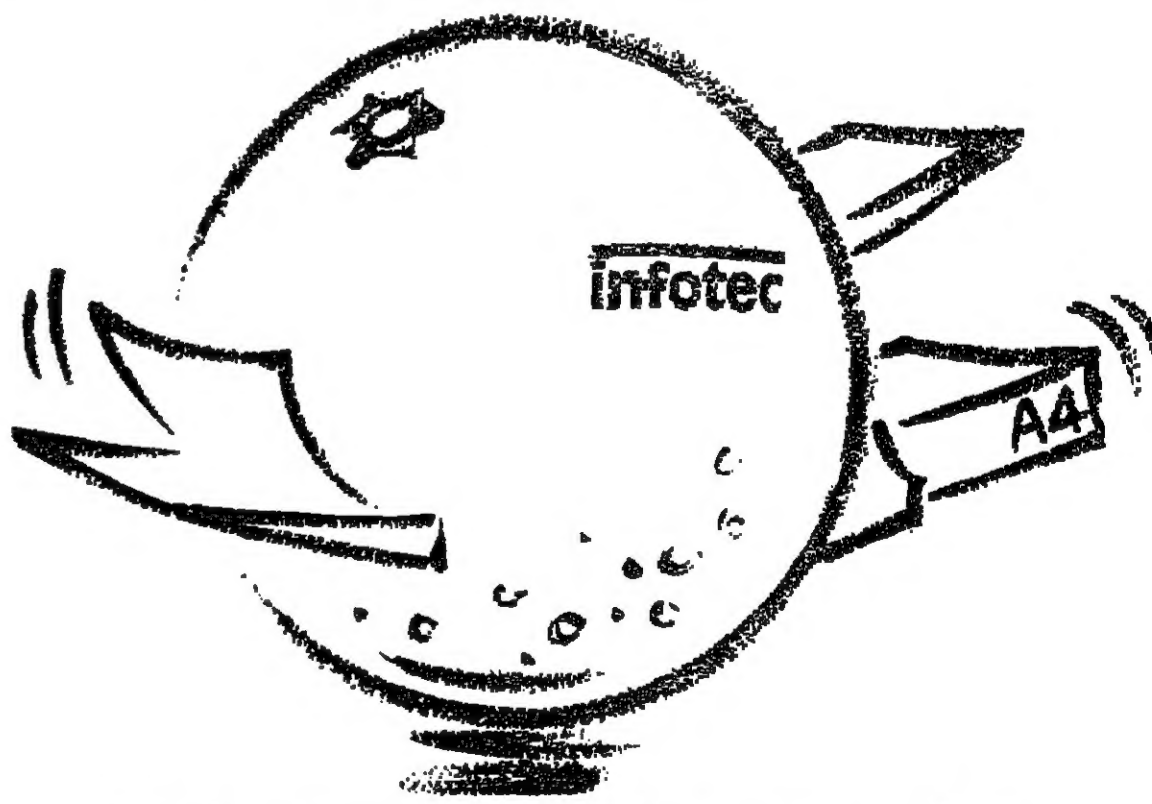
Spring fever

Hay fever has struck earlier than usual this year, probably because the cold late spring delayed some plants and trees from flowering on time, and the subsequent hot weather has brought others forward. Educationalists complain that the examination term coincides with the hay fever season.

Although treatment has improved since the introduction of new antihistamine preparations that do not cause sedation and irritability, many sufferers still buy the older varieties which have some effect on intellectual performance.

Dr Thomas Stuttardford

We have been asked to point out that Countess Kristina von Merveldt (Monday Page, April 9) no longer works for Montipier Travel but for Michael Davis Shipping and Travel.



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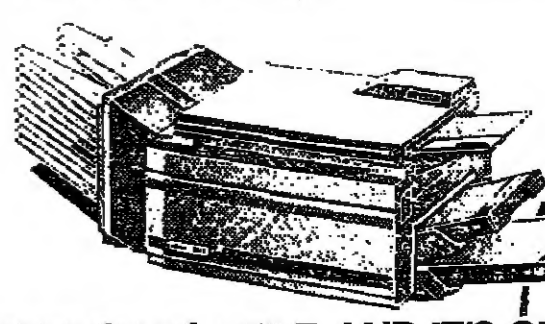
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TOMORROW IS HERE. AND IT'S ORANGE.

THE TIMES DIARY

The story of his life

Ken Livingstone has ensured that at least one good review will appear today of his biography *Citizen Ken*. How? Because he has written it himself, in a review which appears in today's *Hampstead and Highgate Express*. Predictably enough, he opens with some Thatcher-bashing before reviewing "the best account of his three years at the GLC". Says Livingstone: "There is nothing in *Citizen Ken* to satisfy the appetites of the dustbin diggers and doorstep dawdlers of the gutter press who are desperate for some 'dirt' on me. Apart, that is, from the fact that I used to frighten my sister's girlfriends with my frog and my mother thought I was so ugly when I was a baby that she covered my face with a blanket and told the neighbours not to disturb me."

The press vendetta does have its lighter sides. "One TV researcher (female) offered to sleep with me in return for an interview," he says, while one of his staff had to take the press on a tour of her bedroom to prove Livingstone wasn't sleeping there. The review does not mention his displeasure at one picture in the book, showing his comatose deputy chief whip John Wilson listening to Livingstone speaking in County Hall (see picture below). Yesterday Wilson told me: "I'd probably heard the speech before. It just shows that some of us working classes who do other jobs get weary at times."



Box and Cox

After being sacked by Aigis Cluff as editor of *The Spectator*, Alexander Chancellor wrote "in his unemployed state" saying that he was now happy for me to throw him a crust. Our lunch date next week may now well be cancelled: yesterday Chancellor was appointed assistant editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, a post which has been created for him by proprietor Lord Hartwell. Chancellor, who for the past few months has suffered the indignity of being *The Spectator's* TV critic, perhaps ought to hire his old friend Richard Ingrams, editor of *Private Eye*. Ingrams, you may recall, resigned as *The Spectator's* TV critic in protest at the sacking of Chancellor - only to be left seething when Chancellor eased into the TV chair himself.

Sign of the times

Perhaps Windsor Castle had our American cousins in mind when it decided to issue a guide to etiquette. "When in the presence of the Queen, everyone should stand, gentlemen with their hands out of their pockets. If the Queen approaches you, you should wait for her to speak... please remember you should not squeeze the Queen's hand, the first reference to the Queen should be 'Your Majesty' and subsequent references 'Ma'am', pronounced 'Mam' (to rhyme with jam)... One should also refrain from requesting Her Majesty's autograph, as the Royal Sign Manual is reserved for Acts of Parliament and other documents of state."

Leaving card

While Tam Dalyell MP scowls in his aply named Scottish ancestral seat, The Binn, after being banished from the Commons, I hear that John Biffen, leader of the House, has added a second prompt card to his wallet to remind him of form for expulsions. His original dog-eared card reads: "I beg to move that XXX be suspended from the service of the House." On Biffen's second card, he has printed a name, but refuses to disclose it. As the House speculated, I called the chastened Tam. "I know this is not what you are asking," he said, "but about the Belgrano..." I had to give him 10 warnings before he got off the phone.

BARRY FANTONI



Austruther's bought one - he's leasing it to the Nottingham police

Baby book

The Warnock Committee on test-tube babies and artificial insemination is working to an unusual deadline. Its secretary, Jenny Croft, is heavily pregnant. Bets are being laid in Whitehall on whether baby or report, both due this summer, will emerge first, prove heavier and create more fuss.

PHS

Edward Norman offers a way forward for South Africa

Apart, not apartheid



Those who would seek a balanced assessment of the problems of South Africa should begin by recognizing that a genuine difficulty exists for many observers of the South African scene are so confident that the basic cause of trouble resides in white material self-interest, and the consequent denial of rights to the black populations, that they are unable to discern any other underlying condition. But the truth about South Africa is that it has encountered a dilemma which, almost everywhere else it has occurred in history, has proved to be unresolvable by peaceful means. The dilemma is this: how to create a unitary state out of diverse cultural elements.

The scheme of separate development has seemed so peculiarly offensive to western liberal opinion precisely because the cultural elements left out of the unitary state are defined in racial terms, and thus coincidentally institutionalize racial along with cultural pluralism. But there is no way of avoiding the real existence of cultural diversities, dissimilar social organizations, divergent expectations, and very uneven degrees of progressive advancement between the white and the black ethnic groups.

A century ago, separate development would have seemed the obvious solution, and it was indeed the more liberal among the white Christian missionaries who first suggested it, as a way of protecting the ethnic cultures of black society. In the middle years of the present century, however, liberal opinion has tended to favour integration - all persons living within the old area of the Union of South Africa were somehow to be educated and socially conditioned so that they could become a single constituent of a unitary liberal state.

Hence the contemporary approval for what is usually referred to as "the pluralist society". It is a very incooperative term, intended to cover different creeds, moral ideas and personal customs, existing within a single society, as well as ethnic diversities. But it is a concept which can only operate on a temporary basis - it describes a society intrinsically from one set of social orthodoxies to another - and it certainly only operates where the diverse elements of the plurality are actually already sufficiently similar to agree about the rules of the game.

These conditions do not exist in South Africa; they are, in fact, extremely rare anywhere in the world outside the developed western nations. The normal pattern of the modern world, as in the past, has been enforced social uniformity, or the recognition that many of the peoples living under a single government are not parts of society, and are, accordingly, segregated to its periphery. Countries organized around a single political ideology or national ideal have not been noticeable for their sensitivity to cultural diversities. Consider the fate of the non-Russian peoples in the Soviet Union, or the collapse of the British attempt at a unitary state in Cyprus, or - and this is the best case to lay before the South African dilemma - the single-tribe governments of black independent countries in Africa.

The continued existence of cultural diversity in South Africa is sometimes blamed on the South African whites. Had they spent more time and financial resources on educating blacks in the past, it is contended, real differences between black and white would not now be so marked. It is certainly true that

blacks living and working in urban areas are beginning to assimilate to the white material culture, and the more progressive of black political leaders and churchmen have adopted very western critiques of society and the state. But the process is uneven and internally elitist. The larger part of black South African society is still broken up into very diverse cultural entities. Even the westernized urban workers frequently resort to different languages and social customs in their own homes.

The whole influence of the new western emphasis on the preservation of ethnic cultures, furthermore, now legitimizes the diversities. "Black consciousness" in South Africa derives from a contemporary sense that inter-racial cultural uniformity is undesirable: what is needed is a black culture for a black country. It is as insensitive to the continuation of 'white' liberalism as Afrikanerdom is to the notion of an ethnic mixture.

The policy of apartheid is historically very familiar - separate development for different cultural or religious groups within a single territory, sometimes even (as in the South African Homelands) in distinct geographical units. It is unsuited to modern conditions if, one; it institutionalizes racial rather than genuinely cultural differences where it is possible for a separation to be made; two: the allocations of

resources to the various elements are based upon unjust calculations; three: it arrests future social, political or cultural development; or four: it involves actual material oppression. Behind these points the key question remains: how to create a unitary modern state out of diverse cultural elements?

It is likely that within present terms of reference there is no solution. The objectives of the different groups are incompatible. It is, however, reasonable to presume that immediate black majority rule would result in government and policies similar to those in other black African states.

South Africa is a modern, collectivist, western state, with liberal institutions, a high level of technology, a large military establishment - and a nuclear capacity. If these resources were suddenly turned over to a black government, the most powerful black state in the world would suddenly come into existence, sympathetic to many of the objectives, and subject to the same external influences, as the other black states in Africa. The consequence could be a very considerable disruption of the world community.

Western liberal opinion, and particularly the opinion of the churches, is evidently less concerned with these wider considerations than it is with the simpler issue of racial justice. It is unjust, they point out,

that blacks are not citizens in their own country. That seems to me to be an unassailable conclusion. But in what sense are they citizens elsewhere in Africa? In very many African states citizenship is a highly formal advantage: the people have the vote but only one party to vote for; they have social equality but the major ethnic groups actually occupy the places of influence; they are free of economic exploitation yet are impoverished. Theirs are formal freedoms.

Christian criticism of South African policies lays great emphasis on the supposed "oppression" of the black populations. In what sense is this meant? Since the material condition of black society is, in African terms, so relatively high, the expression can only really refer to constitutional inferiority. It is true that wages for blacks are considerably below those for whites in comparable employment, and that is an undoubted injustice - one, alas, that is very common almost everywhere else in the world in some form or other. The evil in South Africa is that the wage disparities are based on race distinctions.

My own belief is that the Homelands policy is not oppressive but is mistaken, and my own belief, also, is that apartheid is not the appropriate way of solving the problem of a multi-cultural society living within the geographical area of a unitary state. I find the whole strategy of apartheid highly artificial, probably impossible to carry out anyway, due to the continuing growth of black urban populations, and in itself undesirable since it is an affront to educated blacks who have assimilated to western culture and are therefore denied citizenship solely because of their ethnic categorization.

But what is the alternative? To deny that a problem exists, and to concede majority rule is, in South African terms, unthinkable. It would also produce results - internal dislocation and continental destabilization - of a sort which would unquestionably worsen the condition of South Africa's blacks, in both the short and the long-term. As it is a problem without an available solution, the best course is probably to leave well alone until other elements enter the scene and alter the terms of reference. That is actually quite a fruitful possibility.

The truth about white South Africa is that, despite its advanced technology, it is really a very old-fashioned society. In political, social, moral and religious attitudes it still belongs to the past, the rest of the western world. So concerned with the preservation of its folk inheritance from destruction at the hands of the English-speaking culture, Afrikaner nationalism managed to isolate white South Africa from recent social trends in liberal societies elsewhere. But the penetration of external attitudes could never be entirely arrested, and there are now all the signs that the process is accelerating.

The best service the western nations, and the western Christian conscience, can perform in this situation is not to try to bring white South Africa to its knees by isolation and sanctions, but to assist its continuation in prosperity - the very fruits of which, like America in the 1960s, will bear the promise of social transformation.

Extracted from the *Haberders' Company Golden Lecture* delivered yesterday by the author, who is Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Shirley Williams

Ireland's ball in Thatcher's court

The history of Northern Ireland is the history of lost opportunities. The best prospect for a new start in the province was painfully worked out at Sunningdale, and collapsed in the aftermath of the 1974 general election when the Protestant workers' movement struck, effectively defying the Westminster Parliament.

The report of the New Ireland Forum represents another such opportunity. It goes further than the nationalist parties have ever gone before in recognizing and respecting the unionist identity and the Protestant ethos as being as valid a part of the Irish tradition as the nationalist identity and the Catholic ethos. The report is honest about Protestant fears: "Northern Protestants fear that their civil and religious liberties and their unique heritage would not survive in a united Ireland in which Roman Catholicism would be the religion of the majority of the population". It recognizes the unionist desire to retain the British link. And although the report is critical of Britain's management of Northern Ireland since direct rule was instituted in 1972, it is not lacking in criticism of Republican attitudes. Most important of all, the report is unambiguous in its condemnation of violence and terrorism.

These elements in the report demand an unreserved welcome; the nationalist parties have hailed their colours to the mast of constitutional democracy, albeit that their colours remain green. The new opportunity must not be allowed to sink under the weight of weariness and dogged despair that now characterizes the British approach to the unyielding problems of Northern Ireland. It is sad that James Prior's first reaction has been to say he is disappointed, and to criticize the report as "one-sided and unacceptable".

The weakness of the report lies, not in its analysis, but in its proposed solutions. The first proposal, which is explored in some detail, that for a unitary state, is wholly unrealistic. Its presence demonstrates how much the forum needed the presence of the unionist parties which rejected the invitation to participate.

The one million Northern Protestants will not consent voluntarily to unification. But "consent" coerced by threats of British withdrawal of military or financial support would lead to the existing scenario on an enlarged scale: a disaffected minority which has no sense of belonging to the political entity of which it is a part. The second proposal, for a federation or confederation, is more attractive, but raises some difficult questions. How would decisions be taken? Would the Unionists, in a weighted majority system, in practice have a veto over major matters? What would the "special links" with Britain be? The report stops short at thinking the unthinkable - a confederation of the UK and the Republic - but the logic of the report's proposal, if unionist fears are to be assuaged, suggests that that proposition should be tabled too.

The report, however, is right to be constitutionally imaginative. As it so eloquently says, "political action clearly carries less risk than the rapidly growing danger of letting the present situation drift into further chaos".

The report's solutions are there-

fore at best long term objectives. Two of them deserve serious discussion, as does the idea of a British-based constitutional link. But there are other measures that might create a new spirit of cooperation in the short-term. The Republic of Ireland is the second poorest country in the European Community. In the list of regions, it comes fourth from the bottom, while Northern Ireland comes second from the bottom, only Calabria in Italy being poorer still. So the case for special treatment by the European Community of the two parts of the island of Ireland is overwhelmingly strong.

So why not establish a committee of MEPs from Northern Ireland and the Republic, the balance on the UK side to be drawn from MEPs from the UK mainland, to put forward major schemes for economic and social development which both governments should support? Such schemes, jointly advanced, might start with the need to avoid the duplication of provision in energy, education and health to which the forum report refers. The two governments should pledge that any Community funding of these jointly agreed schemes would be additional to national public expenditure. A second measure worth considering is the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of the two legislatures, the House of Commons and the Dail Eireann, to scrutinize legislation affecting religious minorities in either part of Ireland, and to discuss how to protect human rights in both countries. The forum report suggests such a Bill - or alternatively the rights already defined and accepted in international conventions - as a feature of a confederal constitution. But the consolidation of the European declaration of human rights into British and Irish law need not await confederation. It could be done right away.

A third area for cooperation lies in education. The Republic's textbooks and Catholic textbooks in the North report a very different history from British textbooks and those in the state schools of the North. Why not a commission of inspectors and educators to reconcile what children are taught, and to suggest ways of bridging the gulf between the segregated schools?

On security, the proposal for a border force jointly administered by the UK and Republic is worth looking at. It would avoid the problems now inherent in the hot pursuit of terrorists fleeing across the border. The SDLP should reconsider its boycott of the Assembly. Before functional powers are given to that Assembly, a convincing power-sharing structure needs to be established, possibly going back to the idea of strong committees, some chaired by members of the opposition.

I hope the Government will use the forum report as a basis for its Anglo-Irish discussions, but, better, it should move towards a second Sunningdale conference at which all the constitutional parties of Northern Ireland and Britain should be represented, and to which the forum should be asked to submit its ideas. No answers can be found without the involvement of the people of Northern Ireland: but time for constitutional answers is fast running out.

The author is President of the SDLP

Philip Howard

Core, stone the computer

Let us try not to feel threatened by the computer revolution. Computers are far too serious to be left to computer experts. Computer people are complicators, not simplifiers; they are trying to make it look difficult, as users of new knowledge have always tried to keep their mystery difficult and exclusive.

I am the man who broke two visual display units on my induction course into the new technology, by tapping Catullus V on to them and then pressing the wrong sequence of buttons. *The Times* books page led the mighty army of Times Newspapers into the brave new world of photocopying; and we are now hot stuff with bromides, and paste-ups, and all the new malarkey. Jolly clever it is at some things, too: such as changing the typeface in a review, or the width of a column, in a twinkling of an eye. Jolly irritating it is at other things, such as the time it takes to make corrections. In the old days of hot metal, you could get a correction from the linotype operator in half the time it takes today.

I do not believe that anybody is ever going to read for pleasure from flickering blue screens. In my observation, the only people who consistently look at Sedfax, or whatever the Book of the Air is called, are news desks and other neurotic neophiles morbidly eager to hear the latest. No doubt the textile workers, under their legendary leader, Ned Ludd, made much the same complaints about the new-fangled machinery in the early nineteenth century.

Here is some encouraging news from the front line of the irresistible advance of the computer revolution: computer experts, contrary to appearance, are only human. If you prick them, they bleed developing fluid. If you tickle their legs, they laugh an inhuman cackle. And their use of language is as reassuringly muddled as that of the rest of us.

Perpend. Computer technology has advanced so fast that it has left the jargon of computerese behind. We are now in the fifth, or is it the sixth, generation of the computer

revolution. The language cannot keep up with the rush. And computer men are left sounding as anachronistic and nostalgic as the rest of us.

If you mix in such circles, you will frequently still hear computer men talking about "core store". They are referring to the memory of the computer, ie, the part that holds data that is being processed. (Note how computerese treats data as an aggregate singular, like sugar or the sand of the Sahara, because computers deal with data so numerous as to be innumerable.) However, as to be innumerable, in a core store no longer exist in any computer worth its sugar. Since the early 1970s the ferrite cores, which used to be the basis of memory, have been replaced by silicon chips. Computer men, being human, carry on talking about the core store. Good.

For another example, computer men still regularly refer to the processor as the CPU, or central processor unit. This is as quaint as a regiment of tanks referring to itself as dragons. It is an echo from the far-off days, all of 10 years ago, when all computers were large and the processing unit, stood in the computer room, surrounded by the peripheral units, ie, the devices that supplied input data, and printed output data as it poured out of the central processor unit. Central and peripheral were exact geographical descriptions.

They are no longer. The silicon chip and the microcomputer have enabled the processor and the input/output to be housed in one small, fiendishly ingenious device. Computerese still refers anomalously and anachronistically to the CPU, Gigo, or garbage in, garbage out, to that. Computers may be out to make a revolution in our lives (less than they promise), but they will still be managed by idiots.

And not till the Gokas again come swarming into view will cease the clangour of the CPU.

Will democracy defeat Mubarak?

Christopher Walker reports on the start of Egypt's 'honest' election



Mubarak: lacks revolutionary credentials of his predecessors



Heikal: 'Israeli accord brought us nothing but shame'

launched any important initiatives either.

One sure indication of the dogged way in which the colourless Mubarak has begun to make an impact is the lack of new political jokes about his alleged stupidity. When he succeeded the assassinated Sadat in October 1981, such jokes were common currency in the Cairo coffee shops. He was often referred to as Teflon, because "nothing sticks in his head".

Because of the lack so far of sweeping changes in anything but style, and Mubarak's failure to acquire a strongly etched image, many Egyptians have deliberately postponed making a final judgment on his performance as the third president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which was formed in 1952 after the revolt of the "Free Officers" overthrew the decadent monarchy of King Farouk.

So far, Mubarak has earned the benefit of the doubt, largely by the way in which he appears prepared to allow the May 27 poll to be - by Arab terms - remarkably free. Most reservations are expressed when it comes to discussing his likely attitude after the voting.

The election will result in a new, expanded national assembly to succeed that elected in June 1979, an election widely considered to have

been rigged by President Sadat and leading members of his ruling National Democratic Party.

The first indication of the changed approach towards the six legalized opposition parties - which between them at present have a pathetically unrepresentative 12 seats in the 392-member parliament - came in January.

A by-election was held in a working class district of Alexandria, a sprawling city which has long lost the cosmopolitan charm immortalized by Lawrence Durrell. Although turnout was low, less than 10 per cent of the 38,400 registered voters, Mubarak's party was defeated by the left-wing Progressive Party, which won by 189 votes.

The Progressive Party leader, Mohammed Sid Ahmed - who contends that the president needs true elections in order to revitalize the moribund NDP - later said of the result: "What happened in Alexandria never happened before. For the first time ever, the police were intent, keen even, on having real elections. They were proud of their own elections. There was no cheating."

One reason often advanced for the new approach is that Mubarak - a former commander of the Air Force - lacks the direct revolutionary credentials of his two more

expansive predecessors, Sadat and Nasser, and has decided to use the elections to establish his own claim to leadership. Certainly his stand has eliminated any accusations of one-man rule which contributed to Sadat's death.

Electioneering has been slow to move into the high gear which might be expected in a country with appalling social problems, where the voice of the opposition has long been neutered by law.

It has chiefly been the remarkable independence of the Egyptian courts which has given the parties their new freedom, especially the dramatic comeback of the New Wafd, the country's oldest party.

Still under the leadership of the venerable Fuad Seragaddin (Fuad Pasha) - the 77-year-old who was its general secretary when the party was first banned by the leaders of the 1952 revolution which deposed King Farouk - the New Wafd was later excluded from politics by Sadat four months after its revival in 1978 had shown just how much popular support it still enjoyed.

Last summer, the New Wafd - an incongruous coalition embracing both Muslim fundamentalists and Coptic Christians - announced again that it would resume political activity, but was refused a licence. Its leaders then went to court and secured a ruling in their favour that was later upheld by a higher court. Another court decision has enabled the Socialist Labour Party to hold its first political rally in years.

Although the complexities of the electoral system would give the New Wafd only between 40 and 50 seats in the expanded 490-seat assembly if it attracts the 25 per cent of the vote most diplomats predict, Mubarak is widely acknowledged to be taking serious risks by his cautious move towards genuine democracy.

Some leading members of his government have warned that he could lose the two-thirds majority in Parliament which he needs to be re-elected President, although most foreign observers dismiss the idea. What is more certain, in a country plagued by overpopulation, massive debt, crippling inefficiency, and recently exposed to Islamic militancy, a sudden whiff of political freedom could always open a Pandora's box.

July 1980



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ONE ISLAND: TWO NATIONS

The germ of the idea of a New Ireland Forum was in the mind of Mr John Hume in the autumn of 1982. It was a way of floating his party off the sands of abstention where it had run aground on the way to Mr Prior's forthcoming assembly. In the course of the forum's deliberations last year and this, the mission to rescue the SDLP assumed growing importance. It was beginning to look as if constitutional nationalism, of which the SDLP is the embodiment in Northern Ireland, might go under if it could not show more measurable progress towards its ultimate objective. The forum and what followed from it were to supply the want.

By now there is serious anxiety (reflected in the urgency, desperation almost, of some passages in the forum report) that the resilience of the Provisional IRA, the electoral advance of Sinn Féin, its political front, the spreading alienation of some Catholic areas of Northern Ireland, and deterioration of the north's economy and social fabric will lead to more widespread conflict and commotion. It is feared that instability could then spill over to the republic, where Sinn Féin is already feeding on urban deprivation and pockets of social anarchy.

Ireland has undergone both rebellion and civil war earlier in this century. The embers of the first still glow in the north east and combustible material from the second lies around. A recurrence of civil strife over the face of Ireland, or even a retreat from constitutional forms, would be hardly less injurious to Ireland than it would to Ireland itself.

The matter can be exaggerated. Nationalist parties in Northern Ireland have sunk before, losing their votes to patrons of physical force, without the arrival of doomsday. The state is strong in the republic, and the first thought of most of

the people there about the conflict in the north is how not to get embroiled. But the dangers drawn in the forum report are real and mounting. It is by reference to them that its authors have their best hope of getting a British government to abandon her policy of holding the ring in Northern Ireland and assume a role that the forum's logic implies for it: to do the necessary to budge Ulster unionism out of its refusal to contemplate a change of nation into a readiness to negotiate for it.

The dangers the forum describes should be acknowledged. Its analysis of their causes is illuminating though incomplete. But the way the forum faces at the end (which is the way it faced at the beginning) is not the only or surest direction in which the analysis points.

The problem is to accommodate in one space two political cultures that are in contention over nationality, Irish nationalism and Ulster unionism. An earlier Dr Garret Fitzgerald said that the route to reconciliation within Ireland as a whole lay through mutual accommodation of the two traditions within Northern Ireland. That necessary first accommodation has now been made more difficult by the forum's emphasis on an unavailable short cut to Irish political unity.

Approaches that have importance for the internal reconciliation of Northern Ireland were looked at in the report. One is for the means of institutional expression and licit display of the pan-Irish ambitions of Roman Catholic citizens in the province. The Ulster Unionist party's position paper that came out just before the forum report nibbled at this. There is at least some overlap there from which to start.

Another relevant approach is by means of associating Dublin with aspects of the administration of Northern Ireland at an

inter-governmental level. This appeared in the forum report in an overblown and impractical form as co-equal responsibility for all aspects of government in Northern Ireland. In both cases useful approaches to the immediate problems of the province have been rendered less useful by their inclusion in a strategy to bring about the political unification of the two parts of Ireland, something that, if it is to be, has to be placed either in the distant future or at the conclusion of an Irish civil war.

The forum is very confident that Ulster unionism could be adequately catered for without the union. By the same token the lot of Irish nationalism in that corner of the island need not be intolerable even though separated from its political nation. That is how another sizable chunk of the Irish nation lives, in apparent contentment, in Great Britain.

That condition cannot be reached without large changes in the institutions of Northern Ireland and the attitudes of Ulster Protestantism. The nationalist community in the north deserves a better place in the sun; it must be afforded, and it must be ready to accept, a constructive role in the affairs of the province. There is much in the forum report that could be turned to account for that purpose. The "nationalist identity" of up to two-fifths of the people of the province could and should be acknowledged in any way that is compatible with the firm anchorage of the province in the United Kingdom.

Those are the openings in the work of the forum that Mr Prior should be ready to explore, with some firmness towards unionist reluctance. Mr Haughey having jumped overboard within hours of publication, Dr Fitzgerald may feel free to explore those openings too.

PERIPATETIC POPE

International journeying has become the distinctive mark of the papacy of Pope John Paul II, and now it is the turn of South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Guadalcanal and Thailand. He has taken on the role of parish priest of the whole world, and being a conservative pastor, his instinct is to go parish visiting. He makes quite a success of it, though probably only a man with his rare combination of extraordinary talents could do so. A gift for languages is not the least of these, and he is said to have been studying pidgin English for the papal mass in Port Moresby. Undoubtedly his visits have some effect wherever he goes, though how lasting it may be uncertain; but a man able to attract mass crowds and massive media attention by the combination of the drama of his office and the charisma of his personality has a unique opportunity to project the Christian message where it otherwise might not reach.

That is one justification: another is that the Roman Catholic Church has become so diverse, linguistically, culturally, racially, and geographically that

without some effort to hold it together its very unity would be under considerable strain. It is a particular responsibility of a Pope to fortify the church's unity, and visiting it in person is this Pope's favourite method.

Foreign visits by the Pope were something of a novelty at first, particularly in contrast to the "prisoner in the Vatican" epoch of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, but they have become part of the Vatican's routine. Recent changes among senior curial officials were described as an adjustment to frequent papal absences: some decisions, it was said, were being unduly delayed. It continues to be a mark of the Roman Catholic Church that it is still highly centralised, with many questions — probably far too many — having to be referred to the Holy See. The answers may now come back more smoothly, but less centralisation would be an even better solution.

The present Pope has put a value on international visiting which ought not to be regarded as a precedent binding on his office for all time, nor on himself if his reign is a long one, for it

could begin to distort the natural evolution of the church in the direction of the principles established by the Second Vatican Council. Each part of the whole, the "local church", was expected to develop in accordance with the society to which it belonged, one Gospel with many different cultural forms. A universal evangelist with a universal message does not quite fit this model. Sometimes it appears he has been briefed brilliantly, as on his memorable visit to Britain; sometimes he seems rather insensitive, as in his dealings with the church in the United States. The success of his visits depends upon his being able to strike a happy relationship with the public mood, but without being captive to it; and public moods are fickle things. Too much adulation is one danger; or the mood could turn against him. It is a difficult balance to strike: sooner or later there are issues here which the church as a whole will have to face, and it would be an appropriate subject for the agenda of the international Synod of Bishops which is now gradually becoming an important element in the Roman Catholic Church's constitution.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Inquests into government disasters, mistakes or misfortunes are painful but healthy. They are among the phenomena that distinguish democracies from tyrannies. The affair of the Libyan People's Bureau is to be afforded two separate investigations: a secret internal Whitehall inquiry into its security and intelligence aspects; and a public hearing in the forum of the all-party Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs. This two-pronged approach should produce a sensible and acceptable balance.

The internal inquiry will deal with that side of the Embassy-launched murder and wounding which has attracted the most attention. Did British intelligence intercept a message from Tripoli to the bureau in London that had a direct bearing on the outrage? If so, was it processed and disseminated with the urgency it merited? There is a danger of treating signals intelligence as if it were a *deus ex machina* since the Government Communications Headquarters and its work have been almost constantly in the news since January. It is important, vital in fact. It is also a taxing and demanding art. The signals security of medium powers is not a pushover. Material takes time to decode and translate at the best of times. In other words, reading the mind of Colonel Gaddafi is not as easy a task as it would be with a Reuter dispatch on a telex machine.

There are indications that

GCHQ did pick up something. Whether the message was standard revolutionary exhortation or a specific incitement to violence is unknown. The impression abroad in Whitehall is that there was no delay in the decoding, translation and promulgation of the message that can be attributed to negligence, inefficiency or a loss of morale in the signals intelligence world since the Prime Minister's ban on trade union membership at GCHQ. An internal inquiry conducted by a senior figure in the intelligence community can swiftly establish the facts. The People's Bureau affair is not comparable to the Falklands. It does not require a Lord Franks to spend months poring through 17-years worth of Joint Intelligence Committee papers.

As so often, the romance of the clandestine has obscured the fact that there is a great deal of important open material lying around upon which a public inquiry can feed. The Commons Foreign Affairs Committee proved itself a skilled and competent corporate investigator on the invasion of Grenada. Where should its examination of the People's Bureau begin? The police, the Foreign Office, the Home Office and MI5 have been aware for a substantial period of time that the People's Bureau in St James's Square was a nest of terrorists. Indeed, Libyan dissidents living in Britain were warned publicly in February that Colonel Gaddafi's hit squads

were on the prowl. How did the authorities assess the consequences of this undiplomatic behaviour? Did they consider moving against those "students" in the bureau not enjoying diplomatic status? Did they suggest that ministers might ponder the desirability of declaring the whole bunch *persona non grata* and severing diplomatic relations with Tripoli?

On the level of micro-security (although it does not seem so micro in view of the murder of WPC Fletcher), was any thought given to the need to keep the peace in St James's by steering anti-Gaddafi demonstrations into less vulnerable locations? Such a question might be considered the territory of the Select Committee on Home Affairs. Westminster demarcations should not preclude it from receiving the central treatment it deserves. Sir Anthony Kershaw of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Sir Edward Gardner of the Home Affairs Committee are respected parliamentary veterans who can easily come to some sensible arrangement. However he sets about it, Sir Anthony must range more widely than his intended examination of diplomatic immunity and privileges and the effectiveness of the Vienna Convention. Ministers seem nervous about the Kershaw inquiry. They have no need to be. They should offer him every assistance short of opening the files on signals intelligence to his committee's scrutiny.

A 'flood of filth' into Europe

From Mr John J. Smyth, QC and Mrs Mary Whitehouse

Sir, May we, through your columns, make two comments on the passage of the Video Recordings Bill in the Lords, to which we have listened with the greatest of interest.

Lord Mishcon put down an amendment to ensure that the real video nasties which receive no classification under the Bill, cannot be exported. Since the debate last Friday we have received the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport of the European Parliament on "the market of violent and horrific video cassettes", dated March 14, 1984. It is clear from that document that the passage of this piece of legislation in Britain is regarded as of the greatest importance by our colleagues in Europe.

The report shows that the United Kingdom has a much higher proportion of video recorders per head of population than any other member state and accordingly the European Parliament are looking to this country to give the lead in introducing appropriate legislation. It is surely unthinkable for us to put our own house in order only to channel the flood of filth into unscrupulous traders in Europe, where there is as yet apparently no effective legislation or control.

One of the conclusions in the report reads as follows: "The member states are able, under article 16 of the EEC Treaty, to prohibit or restrict, on grounds of public morality and protection of human health, imports and exports of pre-recorded video cassettes (four italics)." The principle of comity of nations makes it vital to include a prohibition on exports.

Secondly, may we express our dismay at what appeared to be an attempt by a very small minority lobby to talk the Bill out. Do the members of this lobby really think themselves justified in trying to thwart a piece of legislation vital for the protection of our children which has overwhelming support in the country and in both Houses of Parliament?

Yours etc,
JOHN J. SMYTH,
MARY WHITEHOUSE.
Ardagh,
Colchester,
Essex.
April 30.

Grim outlook for arts

From Mr W. Wealds Bell

Sir, In asking us to consider "what a society deprived of all serious contact with its intellectual and cultural traditions would actually look like", Professor Berthoud (April 27) is forgetting that the majority of the British people is concerned less with how to read "Lycaons" or *Areopagitica* (which is, after all, the nitty-gritty of English study) than with what will happen in next week's edition of *Dallas* and the cut of Boy George's dress.

The real question to ask (and I fear that the answer will be, for most of us, disturbing) is what are we who "study and transmit the literature of the nation" actually doing for the society at whose expense we work?

Yours etc,
W. WEALDS BELL,
Langwith College,
York University,
Heslington,
York.
April 29.

The Heathrow crisis

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, Imposition of the ill-conceived 275,000 annual movement limit at Heathrow airport will damage the UK economy gravely, notably in the regions, and minimal benefit to local residents beyond what technology is achieving and could achieve. Nevertheless, it has emerged that the Government proposes to throttle the development of the vital domestic connections to the regions by such means as a £15 poll tax, though 75 per cent of the users are businessmen, often overseas visitors, and a further 5 per cent are currency-bringing tourists.

Britain cannot afford to squander export prospects now the oil is starting to run dry. Many foreign buyers come from countries where passenger trains are no longer used and so believe that if you can't fly there, you can't get there. Clearly, it is foolish to drive any distance after a long flight.

Apart from the grounding of the "Thunderjets" on January 1, 1986, the Microwave landing system should be introduced as soon as possible so that aircraft can approach at steeper angles and from new directions in the case of the smaller ones.

In the interim period, if ministers feel morally bound by their predecessors' undertaking, terminal four should not be opened; the current need is for more movements, not more buildings.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
Flat 20,
17 Broad Court,
Bow Street, WC2,
April 26.

Police effectiveness

From Inspector B. B. Hesketh

Sir, There is exhibited a misunderstanding of the role of the police officer on foot patrol in your brief summary (April 18) of the study *Crime and Police Effectiveness*.

If a patrolling officer were to do no more than stride about his beat in the hope of bumping into a burglar, he would indeed be ineffective. However, before even setting foot outside the police station he should have acquainted himself with those areas of his beat most at risk. He should also be familiar with the identities of active criminals in the area.

Such basic preparation takes him

Chance of a better deal for Ireland

From Mr Peter Jay

Sir, In your disdainful leader (May 3) on the New Ireland Forum report you at least admit that "the case deserves examination before dismissal". On behalf of those who believe that history will judge harshly those who fluff this rare window of opportunity in Irish affairs, may I ask that this examination should take account of these facts:

1. Over the last quarter-century Parliament has removed full British citizenship, without consultation, consent or notable protest from *The Times*, from many millions of people because it seemed good to the majority in Westminster to do so — and, in cases like the Kenyan Asians, despite the most specific guarantees to the contrary.

2. Westminster partitioned Ireland at the behest of and under threats from the Ulster Protestants.

3. Adhesion to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as desired by Unionists, implies acceptance of the sovereignty of Westminster in which the people of Great Britain (i.e., England, Scotland and Wales) are in a majority of 50:1 over the people of Northern Ireland.

4. This GB majority has, at great financial, human and political cost, underwritten over 60 years of opportunity for the NI minority to develop a successful community in the Six Counties.

Letter of law and the People's Bureau

From Professor M. E. Mazzawi

Sir, Many international lawyers will be puzzled by Dr F. A. Mann's (May 1) liberal interpretation of provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, particularly his statement that the "very special circumstances" of the incident concerning the Libyan People's Bureau justify in law the taking of "entirely different measures".

Article 22 of the Convention (forbidding entry into diplomatic premises except with the consent of the head of the mission), article 27 (on the inviolability of the diplomatic bag) and article 29 (on the inviolability of diplomatic agents) are clear and specific and are part of English law, having been incorporated into the Diplomatic Privileges Act of 1964.

Nowhere in the Act or in the Convention is there any reference to "special circumstances" or to any consideration which would justify departure from the strict letter of the law. Indeed, an examination of the discussions at the United Nations International Law Commission prior to the promulgation of the Convention establishes beyond doubt that the intention was that the Convention should be followed to the letter.

And under English law, and while diplomatic relations between Britain and Libya subsisted, an order could have been obtained from the courts to prevent the Home Secretary violating the Act.

And the only way in which the Home Secretary could have acted differently would have been for him (exercising powers under the Royal Prerogative) to withdraw recognition of the status of the members of the mission, and this he did only with effect from midnight, April 29/30.

On the question of the forcible entry into St James's Square, article 43 of the Vienna Convention provides:

If diplomatic relations are broken off between two states, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled: (a) the receiving state must, even in case of armed conflict, respect and protect the premises of the mission, together with its property and archives...

Thus the building remains "the premises of the mission" even after the termination of diplomatic relations and the withdrawal of the Libyan diplomats. It is additionally protected by the Convention as the "property" of the mission, having been bought by the Libyans a few years ago. And forcible entry and search are neither "respect" nor "protection" in the sense required by the Convention.

Maybe the law is an ass. But until it is changed, and in the proper manner, it remains the law and deserves to be respected. And, of course, it cuts both ways.

Yours faithfully,
MUSA MAZZAWI,
The Polytechnic of Central London,
Faculty of Law,
Red Lion Square, WC1,
May 2.

From Dr J. W. Bruegel

Sir, In order to fill the loopholes in the Vienna Convention of 1961 Mr Alastair Brett (feature, April 28) suggests giving "the diplomatic rules some teeth".

The International Court of Justice in The Hague should be authorized to order searches of diplomatic bags and to suspend countries from United Nations membership. Whether such reforms would bring the desired results or not — the court would still be able to act only in case of countries accepting its jurisdiction in that respect — they could become reality only after basic changes both in the United Nations

Chance of a better deal for Ireland

From Mrs V. Joan Bentley

Sir, I have been active in support of the Conservative Party for many years, both as a member and as a local officer. I am a housewife and my husband is a civil servant.

During the period September 1, 1980, to March 31, 1984, the RPI has increased by 36.6 per cent, the index of average earnings by 47.9 per cent and the Civil Service pay by 19.4 per cent. Our income has fallen by approximately one sixth in real terms in this period at a time when the real income of almost all persons in employment is rising.

This very real loss in our living standards is permanent since it is very unlikely that circumstances will ever occur where civil servants' pay will rise more than the national average or the rate of inflation.

Furthermore it seems reasonable to conclude from the current 3 per cent pay offer to the Civil Service that the Government regards an annual reduction in its employees' living standards as a permanent feature of all future pay settlements and sees no reason why this process should not continue into the foreseeable future. This seems manifestly unjust to the employees.

To ask any Government employee, or the husband or wife of any Government employee, to continue to support the party in these circumstances is, in the words of an old cliché, "like expecting turkeys to vote for Christmas".

It seems to me politically very short-sighted of the Government to alienate its natural supporters among the middle-class membership of the Civil Service, teaching profession etc by such shabby, unreasonable behaviour and to make a present of their votes to the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

Yours faithfully,
V. JOAN BENTLEY,
10 Barrows Court,
Cheddar, Somerset.
April 30.

Farm reforms in China

From Mr Cyril Chithren Lin

Sir, It is easy to understand Jonathan Minsky's criticism (feature, April 31) of growing crime in the Chinese countryside today, but not his assertions on the implications and prospects for rural development following recent agricultural reforms.

Neither the responsibility system in agriculture (1983-4 variant) nor the Central Committee 1984 Document Number One allows peasants to own previously collectively-held land, only to use (income rights as opposed to property rights) and subcontract out land that has been allocated on a per capita basis. While this may lead to greater income inequalities, to equate this system to the landlordism of the past must surely be contrived.

Equally contrived is Minsky's suggestion that grain output growth has been sluggish. It is simply not true that "all agricultural products" have grown faster than grain. Grain output increased by 7.3 per cent in 1983 (one of the highest increases in history) compared with a growth in total agricultural output of 5 per cent.

Grain can now be marketed privately once state procurement quotas are fulfilled and this strongly suggests that grain reserves must be near their highest post-1949 level. Minsky's assertion that widespread hunger is more likely to occur should natural calamities reappear therefore belies logic.

Moreover, the Chinese have never conceded that 20 million people starved to death between 1959 and 1961. What has been roughly estimated, on the basis of figures provided by the late economist Sun Yefang, is that food shortages led to about 20 million fewer people because of increased infant and elderly adult mortality rates and because of a sharp drop in birth rates.

Present Chinese agricultural reforms do pose serious problems in investments and income distribution, but to criticize a policy of increasing food supplies and rural wealth because of disagreeable side-effects strikes me as a case of throwing the baby out along with the bathwater.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL CHITHREN LIN,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.
May 2.

A female 'Christ'

From Mr P. L. Crill

Sir, The Dean of St John the Divine in New York should be unfrocked for allowing such a blasphemous reproduction of an androgynous Christ to desecrate the walls of the cathedral which has been entrusted to his temporal care.

As for *The Times*, it should be reprimanded, not for reporting the fact of this sculptured travesty (which, alas, reinforces my belief that the Episcopal Church in the United States is in a sorry state), but for publishing a photograph (April 26) of it, which must cause deep offence to many Christians.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
P. L. CRILL,
Beechfield House,
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Poetic injustice?

From the Minister for the Arts

Sir, Mick Imlah ("Bards of our time", May 2) described the late Robert Lowell as "boorish". This, to anyone who knew him, or I would have thought, anyone who read him, is rather like describing T. S. Eliot as Rabelaisian or Philip Larkin as jolly. Yours faithfully,
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Office of Arts and Libraries,
Great George Street, SW1,
May 2.

When Scott Fitzgerald remarked to Hemingway that 'the rich are different from us,' he was surely oversimplifying.

Judging by the cars they drive, today's men of means are also very different from each other.

By far the greater majority would seem to be ardent traditionalists and loyal supporters of the status quo.

Undeterred, we've designed a car for those who comprise the more interesting minority:

The Audi 200 Turbo.

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from 0 to 60 in *8.3 seconds and is capable of a spine-tingling *143 mph.

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Yet the 200's engine measures only 2.2 litres.

Aerodynamics, hardly taken into account by car designers five years ago, contribute enormously to both the Audi 200's performance and the '500-odd miles that stretch between fill-ups.

So does the miracle of almost lag-free intercooled turbo-charging.

By simply re-directing exhaust gases, turbo-charging boosts an engine's performance way beyond its naturally-aspirated capabilities.

Characteristically, we've given the problem of stopping fast when you're going fast serious thought, and fitted this mean machine with a virtually skid-proof second-generation Anti-locking Braking System.

Instead of you having to pump the brakes to stop the wheels locking up, ABS does it for you. Up to fifteen times a second.

Alive to the fact that very few cars have ABS, we've incorporated our tried and tested reinforced steel safety cell into the 200's sculptured body.

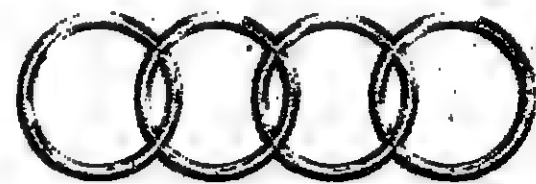
As well as computer-calculated crumple zones front and rear.

Perhaps less characteristically, we've not only lavished the 200 Turbo with creature comforts, but re-thought most of them.

Instead of a heating/ventilation system, the 200 Turbo has a Climate Control System that, once set, need never be adjusted during the lifetime of the car. In winter it'll turn the heating on for you; in summer it'll turn the air conditioning on for you.

And every day of every year it'll maintain the selected temperature inside the car irrespective of the temperature outside.

There's an automatic cut-out on the heated rear window designed to cut in when the window has cleared.



An electronic Auto-Check system that will even tell you if the washer fluid level is low or your brake pads are worn.

A six-year warranty against corrosion from the inside and a three-year warranty against paint defects. (Even the coachwork of a Rolls Royce doesn't inspire such confidence.)

Cruise Control to give your right leg a break on those long runs up the motorway.

And, to stop you risking your neck unnecessarily, we've positioned the controls for the electrically-operated windows and the passenger door mirror at your fingertips.

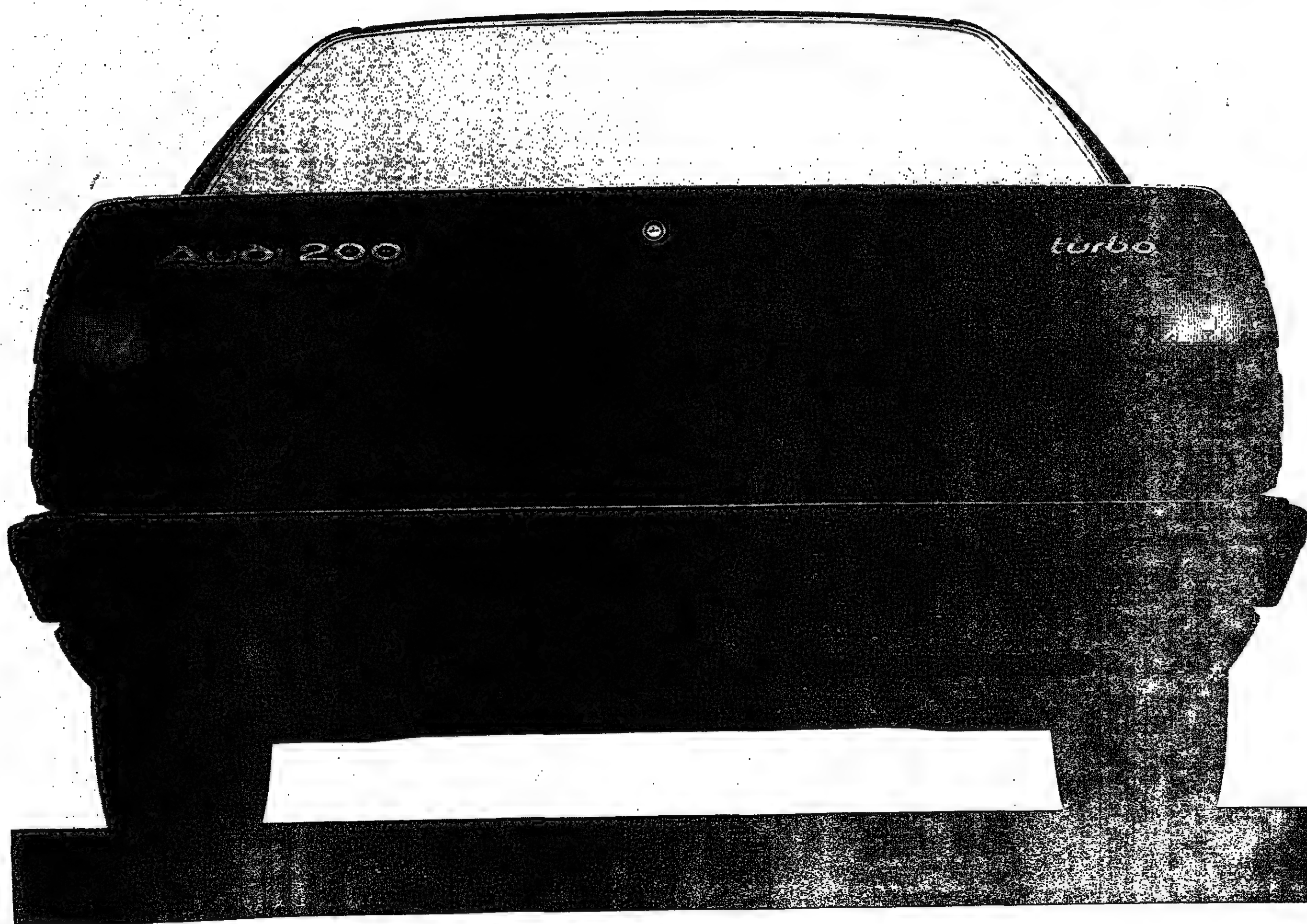
Obviously, the Audi 200 Turbo isn't a car against whose window you could once have pressed your tiny freckled nose. Nor is it a car your father could have held in great esteem.

For the very good reason that the Audi 200 Turbo has been conceived and built within the 1980s.

If you'd like to join the few people who are, as yet, *au fait* with this amazing motor car, we'd be delighted to send you a video tape of it in action.

Just ask your secretary to post your business card to Audi Marketing at the address below, noting on the back whether you have a VHS or Betamax system.

You could impress a lot of people by spending £17,000 on a Mercedes, a BMW or a Jaguar. Or the informed few by spending £17,000 on this Audi.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fletcher must rethink his bankruptcy bill

If Mr Alex Fletcher, the trade minister responsible for the White Paper on insolvency law reform, had any doubts about the deterrent effect of his proposals on outside directors' willingness to sit on the boards of risky companies, they were convincingly dispelled at an Institute of Directors conference held yesterday. The conference was entitled unambiguously: **New legislative threats to directors.**

A delegate from the venture capital arm of the Midland Bank revealed that lawyers had advised it not to put representatives on the boards of client companies in future for fear they might be automatically disqualified should those companies fail. The effect could be most serious in the case of management buyouts, which are prone to failure in the first six months and therefore most in need of independent boardroom advice.

Civil servants starting to work their way through the flood of late representations on the White Paper will now revise their thoughts.

The White Paper has rightly tried to counter abuses by introducing automatic disqualification of directors whose companies go into compulsory, as opposed to voluntary, liquidation. It would also widen the scope of the concept of wrongful trading, which will be able to incur penalties of disqualification for up to 15 years as well as personal liability for a company's debts.

Clearly, the Government will need to tighten up the definition of wrongful trading, especially on the question of when it is "to the detriment of creditors", for a company on the brink of insolvency (another new definition needed) to continue trading.

The biggest problem for directors, though, is that under the terms of the White Paper, they may each take responsibility for collective board decisions that lead to wrongful trading, even if they dissent. They cannot get out of this by resigning. To make matters worse, liability will be based not on fault, but on what the directors know "or can reasonably be expected to know".

The best compromise may be to substitute in the Bill another well-known legal test of "consent, connivance or neglect". It could then be made clear to directors that they must register dissent clearly in company minutes if they want to avoid unfair penalties and refuse any charge of neglect by holding regular board meetings at which, say, key monthly figures for the company are also written into the record.

However, the institute may well have won its battle to stop the DHSS extracting a company's unpaid National Insurance contributions directly from individual company directors regardless of their

blame or, indeed, the possibility of taking these sums from an insolvent company's remaining assets. Mr Norman Fowler is reviewing this Draconian practice. The likelihood is that, in future, directors may only be personally liable if they are guilty of wrongful trading under the proposed new Bill.

A fair question to ask of BP

A shareholder at BP's annual meeting yesterday asked a question about "strained relations" between the company and its American subsidiary, Sohio. The question appeared to be prompted in part by a note in this column on April 11, which readers may recall reported that BP was thinking hard and long about ways of improving relationships with the cash-rich and still independently minded US company. In reply Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, said he was "astounded" to read the story. Possibly he was "astounded" by its accuracy, although that was not the impression he conveyed.

Adding insult to injury, or perhaps attempting to take away credit where credit was due, he claimed that the story was "a direct copy" of a piece that had appeared in the European edition of the Wall Street Journal. True he lost his own footing at this point, a boardroom colleague had to point out that the "original" was in the *International Herald Tribune*, not the *WSJ*.

Sir Peter and I normally get along very well, and to be fair, his chief concern might have been to dispel any suggestion of a rift between BP and Sohio.

Whether or not there is a rift between the two companies is neither particularly interesting nor of prime importance. Nor was it something I suggested had occurred. All I pointed out, based on guidance from impeccable sources, was that there was a faction on the BP board which regarded it as important to give BP closer and more effective control over the running of Sohio. This is something that many in the City regard as overdue.

At the risk of being accused further of plagiarism, I cannot help pointing out that Sir Peter, in an interview in an American business magazine this week, acknowledges that there is indeed "a germ of truth" in reports that BP is planning to take a more active role in Sohio.

Any dealings with Sohio are bound to be sensitive, not least because of the need to protect the interests of Sohio's minority shareholders. I am only sorry that he should seek to use *The Times* as a whipping boy simply for raising the same pertinent questions which his own boardroom colleagues are asking. Shareholders deserve better than that.

'The Times' Budget briefing

Bank chairman - Sir Jeremy Morse is the latest to do so - have been drawing vivid attention to the impact of this year's Budget changes as they affect the treatment of deferred taxation. As everyone now agrees, Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget is the most significant exercise in tax change, particularly for companies, since Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister. A new tax structure is taking shape and the repercussions are difficult to exaggerate.

To help directors, treasurers, professional advisers and investors of every kind to evaluate the Budget measures and to guide them in making the best practical responses, *The Times* has organized a special briefing at the Dorchester Hotel in London on Tuesday, May 22.

A distinguished panel of experts will speak on methods of corporate financing in the new tax environment, tax treatment of individuals, investing under the new tax rules and the best ways of remunerating and motivating senior employees. All the main tax proposals will be put into their proper perspective.

The principal speaker will be Mr John Moore, MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who with the Chancellor of the Exchequer was chiefly concerned with the corporate and income tax changes which figured so prominently in the Budget.

Anyone who missed the advertisements in *The Times* or who may want more information before sending in application forms, may like to telephone this number: 01-405 3501.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarmac in £28m deal with Beazer

CH Beazer, the west country builder, is raising £28m with the sale of a company it bought less than three years ago for £4m after a bitter takeover battle.

Westbrick, Britain's fifth biggest brickmaker, is being bought by Tarmac Roadstone for £20.6m in cash plus dividends and loan stock repayments.

Last year Westbrick made profits of £2.3m.

● **COMPUTER AND System Engineering**, the data communications company, increased pretax profits to £4.1m last year, compared with £1.7m for the previous 15 months. Turnover rose from £29.3m to £37.2m. The final dividend of 2.74p makes 4.1p for the year against the equivalent of 3.15p last time.

Tempus, page 18

● **UNEMPLOYMENT** is likely to rise to 3.5 million by 1988 even as output grows rapidly because many new jobs will be taken by people now outside the labour force, Simon & Coates, the stockbrokers, predict today. The London Business School, by contrast, expects unemployment to fall to 2.5 million by 1987.

● **SIR MONTY** Finiston was incorrectly referred to in *The Times* of April 26 as chairman of the Drake & Scull engineering group. He relinquished the post in September 1983 and the company's present chairman and chief executive is Mr Lionel T. Bugler.

£52m Tricentrol sell-off

Tricentrol, the oil, gas and mineral exploration company whose first quarter profits almost halved this year, has sold its American onshore operations to Wintershall, part of BASF, for \$73m (£52.1m).

The deal, which excludes Tricentrol's Montana gas fields, is made up of properties estimated to have gross proven and probable reserves of 7.4 million barrels of oil equivalent, and a bank of 418,800 undeveloped acres.

As a result, Tricentrol has written off almost \$67m, but says that the reduction of interest costs after completion of the deal is estimated to exceed the net income from the properties being sold for many years, and there will be a sustained benefit to future earnings from America.

As a result of the sale, Mr Arnold Brackbridge will join Wintershall and will retire as president of Tricentrol's North American operations.

Fighting to restore the fortunes of Crocker National, the ailing American bank controlled by Midland Bank, has been "like going 15 rounds with the world heavyweight champion", said Mr John Harris, chief executive of Midland's international division, yesterday. He has been sent to San Francisco to tackle Crocker's problems.

Mr Harris and Mr Frank Cahouet, recently brought in at vast expense from Security Pacific, have been making drastic cuts.

"Frank and I make an excellent team. We've taken it on the chin pretty hard recently. But now we are reducing salary levels, deferring pay increases, striving to boost the bank's non-interest income and working long hours handling our difficult loans. But it's hard in the residential market. To find buyers at the moment."

He said that Midland was considering bidding for the

Shell UK to lead £550m gas field expansion

By David Young and Philip Robinson

Shell UK and BP, Britain's top two oil companies, yesterday revealed expansion plans which will mean security of 40,000 jobs for the one and record spending and substantial dividends for the other.

Shell UK will head a consortium which is to spend £550m developing two North Sea gas fields, with more than 70 per cent of the work involved being placed in Britain, giving job security to an estimated 40,000 workers.

The chairman of BP, Sir Peter Walters, promised shareholders at the annual meeting a record £2,000m was being spent on improving and expanding the business this year. He said they would benefit from the financial success of the group and added that the British North Sea has a great future for the group and the nation.

The Shell project was approved yesterday by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Minister of State for Energy. He said: "The capital expenditure will provide substantial opportunities for our offshore supplies industry to bid for contracts."

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Contracts placed include fabrication of two well-head

Blue Chips have been ignored in the general rally, and favours stocks like Canon, Nippon Kogaku, and Sony. Da Zong & Beyer is keen on

Fujitsu, fast becoming a world leader in computer technology, whose 1983/84 profits, due shortly, should show a rise of a third, despite an historical multiple of 25, the shares look cheaper than Fujitsu's rival NEC.

Finally, James Capel favours MEL at around Yen 1900, after its first quarter results revealed a profits gain of per cent, a clear reflection of the group's increasing American penetration.

Norwich Union

There are encouraging noises from Norwich Union that the promise of a revival in the corporate debt market might have a little more substance to it than a mere expression of a worthy ideal. The company has earmarked £30m for investment in corporate mortgages and debentures this year. It spent virtually nothing in this sector last year.

The climate is now much more suited to corporate bonds, aided by the change in

The Budget to put their tax treatment on a par with gilts and companies are more willing to pay the interest rates which institutional investors are demanding. As long as the equity market maintains its present heights, the incentive to return to debt as a means of expansion finance will be enhanced.

Norwich Union is not afraid to take the initiative whereas other institutional investors have preferred to follow the competition. This is clearly

The industry norm is to give much more prominence to gifts at the expense of equities. Norwich Union is now seeing the benefits of its departure from tradition as recent dividend payments by companies have increased. The trend seems to be for companies to increase payouts in an effort to overcompensate for the lean years of the recession and

Norwich Union is more than happy with the yields it is now seeing.					
1993/94					
Bid	Rate	Yield	Bid	Rate	Yield
Bid	Other	Treat	Bid	Other	Yield
223.9	7.25	7.25	223.9	7.25	7.25
224.0	1.00	1.00	224.0	1.00	1.00
224.1	1.00	1.00	224.1	1.00	1.00
224.2	1.00	1.00	224.2	1.00	1.00
224.3	1.00	1.00	224.3	1.00	1.00
224.4	1.00	1.00	224.4	1.00	1.00
224.5	1.00	1.00	224.5	1.00	1.00
224.6	1.00	1.00	224.6	1.00	1.00
224.7	1.00	1.00	224.7	1.00	1.00
224.8	1.00	1.00	224.8	1.00	1.00
224.9	1.00	1.00	224.9	1.00	1.00
225.0	1.00	1.00	225.0	1.00	1.00
225.1	1.00	1.00	225.1	1.00	1.00
225.2	1.00	1.00	225.2	1.00	1.00
225.3	1.00	1.00	225.3	1.00	1.00
225.4	1.00	1.00	225.4	1.00	1.00
225.5	1.00	1.00	225.5	1.00	1.00
225.6	1.00	1.00	225.6	1.00	1.00
225.7	1.00	1.00	225.7	1.00	1.00
225.8	1.00	1.00	225.8	1.00	1.00
225.9	1.00	1.00	225.9	1.00	1.00
226.0	1.00	1.00	226.0	1.00	1.00
226.1	1.00	1.00	226.1	1.00	1.00
226.2	1.00	1.00	226.2	1.00	1.00
226.3	1.00	1.00	226.3	1.00	1.00
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The Japanese have their own version of "Sell in May and go away", which freely translated into English comes out as "Take profits in Golden Week" - the early May holiday period

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FOOTBALL: FA GET THEIR PRIORITIES WRONG

What price England against the world after fiasco in Wales?

DAVID MILLER

The ineptitude of another match - England's loss to Wales in their final British Championship encounter - has turned attention to the match programme, to discover a quiet extraordinary statement by Ted Croker, the FA secretary. Taken in conjunction with an item in the current *FIFA News*, to which I will come, it suggests that football may soon sign up the Queen of Hearts as business consultant.

In attempting to defend the decision of the English and the Scots to give the elbow to Northern Ireland and Wales, to turn their backs on history and to jeopardize Britain's quarter of representatives on the International Board, all in order to be able to play allegedly more attractive matches at Wembley, Mr Croker said: "We should not be ashamed to face up to the fact that our international income is an essential element in the FA's basic function of promoting the game across the whole spectrum of society."

Quite apart from reading more like the sales manager's report at the annual meeting of a multi-national detergent company, the statement seems to be totally to misrepresent the facts: that it is not money which promotes football, but the quality of football itself. This confusion is rampant within FIFA, which believes that because the World Cup and other competitions generate millions of dollars, therefore football is in sound health. Self-evidently it is not.

The FA, whose good intentions no one questions, has become preoccupied with making money rather than protecting football. Don Revie, recently said, reflecting on his three controversial years as manager, that he took most pride in the money he made for the FA. The basis to every

football equation now - and Mr Croker admits it in his Wrexham article - is what will fetch the highest price on television. What television wants above all is not so much a beautiful exhibition of the game - a bonus if they do, occasionally, get it - as outright gladiatorial nationalism. Can our brave but not too good lads - beat the Poles, the Argies, the no-hope Finns, the expedient Eye-ties, the disciplined Hungarians?

Mr Croker goes on to argue that there is more attractive opposition than Wales and Ireland from Europe and South America, that because we play so many qualifying competitive matches against European opponents, the only way to play South American or Third World teams is in friendlies. Yet tell me when you last saw a truly outstanding match against anyone at Wembley.

The profusion of competitive matches, in seeded groups which mainly keep England

apart from better teams, are the death of football. Most teams come to Wembley hellbent on drawing 0-0. As for the idea that there is a gala of South American talent awaiting call, forget it. Apart from Brazil and maybe Argentina, there is no worthwhile South American team. Alan Evans, the Wales secretary, points out in answer to Ted Croker how pitifully Uruguay played at Hampden last September, attracting fewer people than Wales. Uruguay have hardly played a decent away match since the World Cup in 1970, and the goalless draw with England in 1977 was the worst imaginable.

Mr Evans suggests instead of the British Championship a biannual Cup, in which England/Scotland are kept apart in the first round, playing Wales/Ireland in the winter months, with the final in the spring. Yet what the British should really be doing, through their privileged position on the International Board, is to try to stand up to

FIFA and achieve better refereeing and the elimination of negative play by changes in the laws which will allow Rush and Rossi, Zico and Maradona to flourish, rather than Gentile.

There were two calculated off-the-ball fouls on Gregory on Wednesday night, both inside the penalty area after he had made intelligent runs from midfield; both were clear penalties, yet neither was apparently seen by the referee. Syme of Scotland, who at other times made melodramatic decisions about whether it was a corner or goalkick. He also missed several nasty midfield fouls by Gregory which, against say, Argentina would have started another war.

In *FIFA News*, the referees' committee has the audacity to criticize the press for the use of the expression "professional foul"; they say it causes "uncertainty" and that there is no such offence. Well, there were at least 20 in the first hour of the last World Cup final, bookable offences deliberately intended to stop the opposition from playing.

The FA, fathers of the game, ought to be looking less at how they can make the odd extra quarter of a million at Wembley than how to save the game from its own destruction, how to liberate the remaining handful of outstanding players who are still worth watching. Indeed, they could start by having a quiet word with their manager, who after allowing Armstrong to stand in a hole in midfield, doing almost nothing for 75 minutes, only then brought on Bliss.

Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium will stage an international match for the first time on May 18. The third division club expect the schoolboy game between England and Wales to attract a crowd of around 7,000, almost double Gillingham's home average.



Robson (left) and Croker: Men with a national problem



Steve Hodger: dogged defiance

A monument to the bulldog spirit

By Clive White

It may not have been one of the most artistic displays seen in this city of culture but it was certainly a monumental one. For 77 minutes here in Florence on Wednesday night the England under-21 team blunted a technically sharp Italian side to reach the final of the European Championship, of which they are the holders.

What a powerful incentive this should have been for England's seniors, but judging by events elsewhere it came too late. Unfortunately, the qualities to recount are not ones of exceptional skill or finishing but just the good old British virtues of courage, strength and discipline harnessed to a firm understanding.

The successes were naturally of the negative sort. People like Thomas, the late replacement for Siergiev, Bailey, Watson, Stevens and Hodge - met the challenge squarely and bung on like bulldogs. There were no failures for England; they could afford none. It was a pleasure to see the chirpy Thomas kicking with world championship confidence at Tottenham Hotspur.

England were stretched to breaking point by some dazzling forward play by Italy, much in keeping with the world champions. It is only a pity that they have to sully their talents with cynical fouls off the ball which went largely unseen by the Belgian referee. The

bookings were unfairly even, two apiece, Callaghan and Thomas for England and Icardi and Bergomi for Italy.

The Italians, showing five changes to the team at Maine Road, were an entirely different proposition to the first leg. It took them only 13 minutes to get back into this tie with a piece of typically clinical finishing by Mancini as he promptly dived in front of Watson to convert Mancini's equally prompt centre.

England's goalsposts presented target practice for any number of Italian players. On the half hour Dossena, heckled by his own crowd, gave a rash pass towards Calton but the England captain, struggling with an ankle injury, slipped and let in Mancini again who seized the opportunity like a good forward but saw his shot strike the foot of Bailey's post. Half-time arrived like an oasis for England's staggered defenders. Dave Sexton, the manager, admitted: "I was very worried. We were just too loose at the back."

England's opponents in the final will be Spain, who last night beat Yugoslavia 2-0 in Malaga, winning 3-0 on aggregate.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Wales 1, England 0	
N Ireland	0
England	0
Scotland	0

REMAINING FIXTURES: May 22: Wales v N Ireland; May 23: Scotland v England	
First leg: 1. England 0 (England win 3-2 on aggregate)	Spain 2, Yugoslavia 0 (Spain win on aggregate)
THIRD DIVISION: Bradford City 0, Bristol Rovers 1; Oxford United 0, Wigan Athletic 0	
FOURTH DIVISION: Darlington 1, Stockport County 0; Torquay United 1, Chester City 0	
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' CUP: Semi-finals: Hull City 1, Sheffield United 0 (Hull play winners in final)	
WORLD CUP: Qualifying rounds: European group five Cyprus 1, Austria 2; SWEDEN 1	
FRENCH LEAGUE: Rennes 0, Bordeaux 2; Monaco 2, Nantes 0; Auxerre 1, Paris St Germain 1; Toulouse 0, St Etienne 2; St Etienne 1, Lens 0; Metz 2, Lens 0; Bastia 4, Strasbourg 2; Le Mans 0, Nancy 2	
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Rangers 0, Aberdeen 2; Celtic 2, Dundee 0; Hearts 0, Dundee 0	
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Hearts 0, Aberdeen 2; Rangers 2, Dundee 0	
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn Rovers 1, Newcastle 1; Stoke 1, Notts County 0; Chesterfield 0, All Saints 0	
SECOND DIVISION: Rotherham 0, Mansfield 0; York 0, Kingston 0	
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Leicester 0, Reading 0; Walsley 3, Norwich 2; Southampton 1, Chelsea 2	
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: President's Cup: First, second leg: Workington 0, Marnock 0 (see Workington win on away goal)	

Today's Fixtures

7.30 noon signed	
Second division	
Manchester City v Chelsea (7.15)	
Fourth division	
Halifax Town v Chesterfield	
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Runcorn v Nuneaton; Weymouth v Bangor City	
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Stoke; Manchester United v Everton	
Second division: Rotherham v Barnsley (7.0)	

Taylor double hope

By Paul Newman

Peter Taylor, the former Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur winger, is set to become the first player to appear for England at both full and semi-professional levels. Taylor, who now plays for Maidstone United, has been selected for the four nations semi-professional tournament in Italy next month.

Keith Wright, the England manager, has tended not to select

former professionals who have moved into non-league football at a late age, and have preferred instead players who have based their careers in the semi-professional game.

Taylor, aged 31, has, however,

impressed Wright with both his skill and commitment to Maidstone, who have three other players Thompson, Newton and Watson in the squad.

Scotland, Italy and the Netherlands are the other countries competing in the four nations tournament, which England won last year.

Nuneaton Borough will go top of the Alliance Premier League if they win at Runcorn in their last game of the season tonight. Maidstone, however, will take their final game at home to Torquay United tomorrow. If Nuneaton win by one goal Maidstone will need only to draw; should Nuneaton win by two goals or more, Maidstone will have to win.

Provided their ground facilities are up to standard, the Alliance champions go forward as candidates for election to the Canon League. Maidstone were the unsuccessful candidates last year.

Now Oxford seek title

Oxford United capped a memorable season by winning promotion to the second division, after an eight-year absence, following their success in the FA Cup. The club drew at home to Wigan Athletic on Wednesday night. A home victory on Saturday against Exeter City, already relegated to the fourth division, will give Oxford the third division championship to add to the glory claimed in the FA and Milk Cups this season.

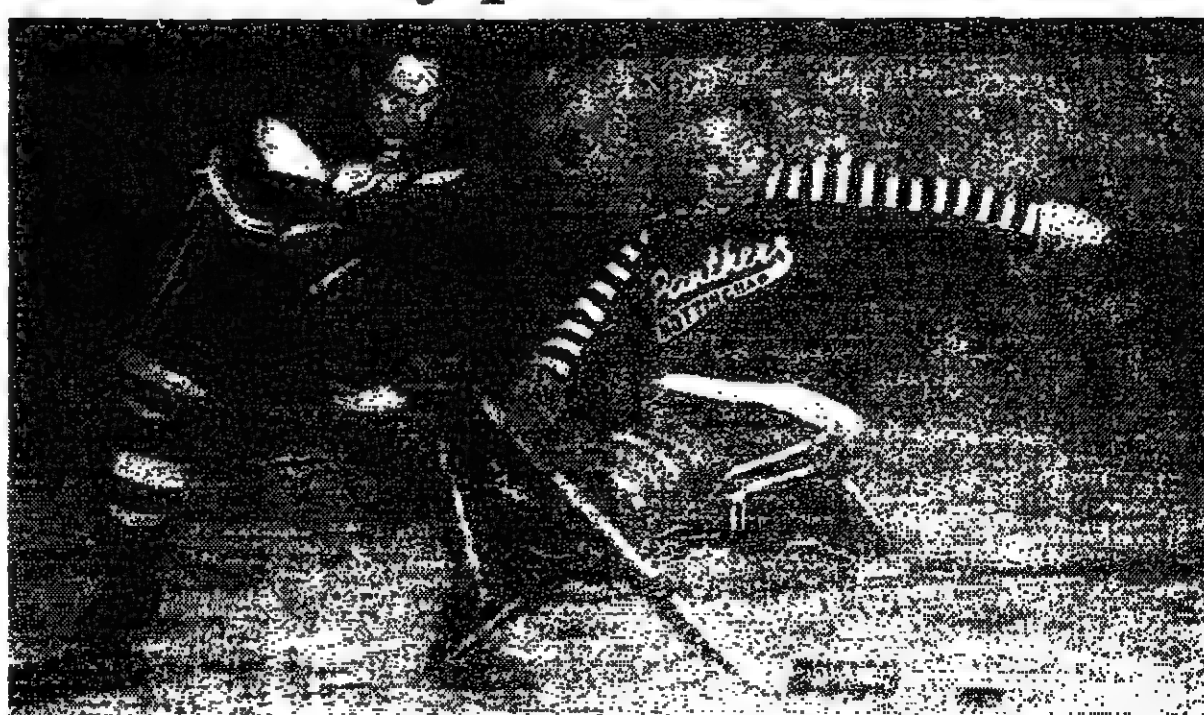
The Oxford chairman, Robert Maxwell, asked with supporters to reserve their promotion celebrations until their last match, against Rotherham United on May 12, but his plea fell on deaf ears. Nearly 9,000 fans were denied a goal which

would have given the club the championship, but nobody seemed to care. At the end, supporters invaded the pitch and called for the players to make another public appearance.

Aberdeen completed the formalities of winning their second Scottish premier division championship in five years, as their 1-0 victory over Hearts of Midlothian at Tynecastle lifted them on to the 54-point mark. The manager, Alex Ferguson, said: "It's good going for any team outside of Celtic and Rangers to win the title twice - but to defend it successfully would be particularly nice. Not many teams have done that but we want to be one of them."

British championship finals mark golden anniversary

Spirit of ice hockey past checks into Wembley



Ice cool winner: Finck is beaten by Beach, whose Lions won the league that season, 1951-52

With the British championship finals being played this weekend, ice hockey returns to what people in the sport are given to calling its "spiritual home", as though Sir Arthur Elvin still stalks black-tie through Wembley Arena, Bobby Denison flits between the show jumpers and the gymnasts with a spectral puck attached to his stick and Lou Bates winds up again for a rink-length dash scattering the rock stars and basketball players who have usurped his special territory.

Lou Bates, however, is alive and well, and so is his game, which flourishes again fifty years after it first arrived at what was then the newly-built Empire Pool.

The first game was played on October 25, 1934, between the Wembley Canadians and Wembley Lions, the two teams the arena had entered in the English National League. Among those first Canadian recruits were Bates, who was to become the outstanding figure in pre-war British ice hockey, and a 19-year-old defenceman from Winnipeg, Clarence (Sonny) Rost.

After three months Rost was so homesick he asked for his release. Instead Elvin paid him salary for 25 a week and Rost stayed on, for the rest of the season, for the following seasons, through the war, playing until the British League collapsed in 1960. He is still here.

"It was the best league in the world then," he says of the pre-war era. English clubs had the pick of Canadian players outside the professional National Hockey League, which then had only six clubs.

For a long time ice hockey provided the major part of the arena's business. During the post-war entertainment boom there were six teams in London alone, drawing crowds of 8,000 or more to Wembley and the now defunct arenas at Harringay and Earls Court, but the structure of the

game - geographically lop-sided and top-heavy with imported players - could not withstand the initial impact of television.

Yet ice hockey remained a regular and popular attraction at Wembley until 1968, though by then a veteran team was running short of plausible opposition. The game returned briefly in 1973, when a team of professionals from the Detroit Red Wings organization appeared as the London Lions. With no league to pay in and a bizarre schedule that concentrated all their home games into two months on either side of Wembley's Christmas ice show, the Lions lost £100,000 that season. When plans for a European

League fell through, the Lions did not return.

Ironically, there had been a European League 40 years before, when Wembley first opened. Travel to Berlin and Prague in midwinter was in those days a more hazardous undertaking. Rost remembers a flight to Paris that was interrupted by a forced landing in a Mordovian field.

But Wembley and English ice hockey continued to exert a considerable influence on the European game. During the run of the ice shows, teams would tour Europe. The Soviet Union, whose recent ascendancy had been as traumatic to Canadian ice hockey as the 1953 Hungarians were

to English football, paid regular visits.

The European game, which emphasizes skating and passing, resembles the style that Wembley, enshrined "We used to play wide-open hockey without too much hitting," Rost says. "In America now they learn to hit and back with the stick before they learn the basic skills."

Nevertheless, Wembley's dealings with the Russians were not always cordial. On one memorable occasion Roy Shepherd, Wembley's English defenceman, laid out a fast-skating Soviet forward. "It was a clean hit, a beautiful check," Rost says. But it halted play for several minutes as the

Bruno may have to learn new tricks as circus hits town

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

If the circus that came to London yesterday is anything to go by, then Frank Bruno had better learn a few new tricks by the time he meets James "Boncrusher" Smith at Wembley on Sunday, May 13 - an auspicious day for a heavyweight encounter as Joe Louis was born on at date.

The troupe consists of the main performer, "Boncrusher" himself, his two joint managers, Steve Nelson and Alan Kornberg, a trainer, Emile Griffith, the former world middleweight champion, and a sparring partner, Linwood Jones.

The fact that they have come here in force and set up camp a good 10 days before the event seems to show that they mean business. Perhaps, just perhaps, for the first time we may see one of Bruno's opponents land two telling blows one after the other on our man.

The unruffled 6ft 4in heavyweight from Magnolia, North Carolina, aims to "apply the crusher" to Bruno's jaw over the British-born ninth place in the world rankings and move on to greater things. Nelson, sporting an "I love Boncrusher" badge, waved a pennant that the much touted Chris "Express" said: "We are on our way to the top and Mr Bruno is going to find out that he is not going to be an obstacle." The fighter said: "Bruno is going to fall, I don't know when, but he is going to fall because he is in my way."

But when the flag-waving and the fist-waving was over, Smith, as might be expected, turned out to be a most personable 29-year-old. A graduate in business administration, he spends his spare time teaching history to prisoners at the Harnett Centre in North Carolina. He earned his nickname serving as an administrative officer in the Third Infantry Division in Germany when, after he had crushed a few ribs and broke some noses in the Army boxing matches, one of his officers said: "I'm going to call you 'Boncrusher'."

Nelson says that many a sparring partner will testify to the quabbles celebrated by his nickname. Smith has had 14 contests, compared with Bruno's 21. He has been beaten only once, in four rounds by James Broad, but all his other opponents have gone the way of Bruno's victims - anytime from the second to the eighth round, mainly the second.

Nelson said that he and his partner, Kornberg, spotted Smith while watching boxing on television. So impressed were the two real estate men that they decided to sign him. "Boncrusher" said: "We are on our way to the top and Mr Bruno is going to find out that he is not going to be an obstacle." The fighter said: "Bruno is going to fall, I don't know when, but he is going to fall because he is in my way."

Big incentive for Scots

With a shortage of cash restricting the size of the British Olympic Games team, the Scots have their biggest incentive for years to win places in the Olympic party. Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, says that in eight years they have six men in the ninetysix WBA finals, sponsored by George Wimpey, at Wembley tonight.

They also have the added spur that the manager of the Olympic team is Frank Henley, of Scotland, and the assistant coach, Dick McTaggart. The public should get their money's worth.

The three with the best chance are the flyweight, Patrick Clinton (Croy Miners), Alex Dickson, the lightweight from Larkhall, and the Lochewe light-welter, Willie Buchanan. Clinton meets John McBride of Repton, and the Scot should gain a close verdict. Dickson has enough all-round ability to impress the judges against Carl Crook of the Army. Buchanan is a steady improved boxer and should not be troubled gaining his second victory

over the Welshman, David Griffith, of Sploit.

The Hawick heavyweight Douglas Young, however, will be up against it when he faces John Srikumar Sen, of the Prince of Wales. The Cardiff boxer has turned out to be one of the big punches of the year. In the British semi-finals he disposed of Florance Miles with one big right hand after trading by miles with the experienced middleweight Brian Schumacher, of the Navy.

Lyons will be trying for his fourth title and he should beat Wayne Williams, of Tring, who has won Abrams's record. Schumacher takes on Russell Barker, a Scot from St Francis ABC, and since the Navy man survived a controversial count-out in the semi-finals, Douglas looks a sure thing against the Welshman Neil Munro.

RUGBY UNION

Cup passion killers

By Michael Stevenson

Cup rugby has many critics, but the cruelest argument in its favour must be based on the intensity of passion that it so often engenders. This passion is cancelled, some would say, by the tendency of one club to dominate a particular competition, so that the winner is known before the first ball is kicked.

Sale, one of the North's most successful sides, have won the Cheshire Cup for 13 consecutive seasons and with it a guarantee of entry into the preliminary stages of the national knockout. Glancing realistically at Sale's rivals in this competition, it is hard to see an end to their dominance.

The same might have been said about the Northumberland Cup. Gosforth for some years one of the most powerful teams in the country, have usually carried off the cup for - yes - the last 13 years. This winter logic was swept into the North Sea as Alnwick, at their fifth attempt, managed to defeat a Gosforth team that admittedly had been ravaged by injury.

Alnwick's triumph was the more notable in that the club was founded only 14 years ago and, on form, could not have been judged likely to give Gosforth a game. A little further south, West Harlepool,

winner of the Northern merit table, defeated their friends and neighbours, Harlepool Rovers, to win the Durham Cup for the fourth successive year.

Aspirant, winning the Cumbria Cup for the fifth consecutive year, appear to have taken over, perhaps temporarily, from Wigton, the beaten finalists who previously held the cup for four successive seasons.

To the south-west, Liverpool, exploiting the extraordinary collapse of Orrell, won the Lancashire Cup. They defeated Preston Grasshoppers, coached by England's coach, Richard Greenwood, at the close of a season in which three rival clubs - Waterloo, Orrell and Vale of Lune - all seemed to be ahead of them at various stages in the quest for honours.

Yorkshire's inability to spawn a club of acknowledged and undoubted senior status is largely offset by Leeds's emergence as potential challengers for this title. Headingley defended their tenure convincingly, defeating Wakefield in a final that underlined the crucial contribution that Brian Barley, absent through injury, makes during his recently-rare club appearances.

Russians retreated to their dressing room and the cold war momentarily over-heated. Rost recalls what he took to be Soviet embassy staff screaming "Bloody English butcher" at a Shepherd as he returned to the bench.

The Wembley style owed much to Sir Arthur Elvin, the stadium's managing director until his death in 1957. Rost tells of the time when Elvin saw the New York Rangers play in the National Hockey League. "He said, 'If that's the way the professionals play I don't want to know.'"

It was a style that suited George Beach, a stocky Canadian centre who scored more than 1,000 goals in a 20-year career at Wembley. "Wembley always stood for clean fast skating, good stickhandling and goalkeeping," he said. "Sir Arthur Elvin wanted clean, fast, crowd-pleasing hockey. He didn't have any time for bully-boys or dirty players. He'd give them a chance, he'd fine them and if they didn't shape up he'd send them home."

The most prominent victim of this policy was a defenceman with a splendidly menacing physique and the splendidly menacing name of Red Kurz. "He was the gentlest hockey player ever," Rost recalls, but Kurz's career was interrupted by a clash with Dave Miller, a Streatham wing Rost calls "a little chippy sort of player." According to Rost, who was by then player-coach of the Wembley Monarchs, Miller "clipped Red in the ear with his stick and laughed. But he made a mistake... Red cleaved him straight across the head with his stick."

Elvin did not approve. Kurz never played for Wembley again. Such unyielding probity should not be unwelcome at the British championship finals this weekend, when it will be time to revive the spirit of Wembley. Robert Pryce

also on page 20

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CRICKET: NEW ROAD IS A SUITABLE GROUND FOR TREATMENT

Batsmen suffer grievous bodily harm on pitch that could turn killer

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

HORESTER: Gloucestershire, with eight second innings wickets in hand, lost 212 to beat Glamorgan.

From 11 o'clock until a quarter to eight, batsmen lived in peril at Worcester yesterday as the faster bowlers took it in turns to hit them all over the body. For Gloucestershire, Neale played a captain's innings of 73. For Glamorgan, when they were being bowled out in only 36.2 overs in their second innings, Henderson again played his game with a convicted bowler's composure which no-one else came anywhere near to matching. Glamorgan will have to bowl uncommonly badly not to win tomorrow.

Between now and May 19, when the West Indians play the opening match of their tour here, someone must have a word with the groundsman. Maybe the Worcester batsmen will, fearing for their own safety. Over the last two days the bounce has been steep and unpredictable enough to be positively dangerous. With Marshall and Garner bowling in partnership, the pitch has been constantly tending to the bumpy. Three times have come to mind when the batsmen were in danger of being bowled out in the first three hours of their innings.

Another thing. If some grass is taken off the pitch, the days will not last so long. They are dragging on until 7.30 or beyond mainly because the faster bowlers are having to do almost all the work. Yesterday there was only one over of spin. On Wednesday it was only because Worcester were bowled out so inaccurately that Glamorgan reached 300. Glamorgan themselves, having reduced Worcester to 29 for four in their first innings, should have bowled them out from many fewer than 200. Glamorgan's second innings of 134 reflected much more accurately the problems of batting. It is surprising that no one, so far, has finished up in hospital.

After Glamorgan's overnight declaration, Worcester were at once in trouble. Weston was caught at the wicket in the third over, not for fear of what the ball might do but what it did: in the fourth.

Curtis was caught at slip, the ball hitting in the seventh Patel was smartly caught at short leg off something that lifted horribly. In the sixth Smith was bowled between bat and pad by Selvey's second ball. Besides lifting sharply, the odd ball would also move away from the seam or keep low.

How, in that case, did Neale, who can be said to be only fairly fond of fast bowling, ever come to make 73, an innings which probably saved the match? Well, he watched the ball closely, even when he was not particularly near to it, and he played the shot he likes, especially the square force off the back foot. He had the luck to survive a straightforward chance to slip when he was 32, and he played and missed a good deal. There was a time, when Humphries was in, when there was almost more missing than playing.

All things considered, Neale's was an admirable effort, worth many a hundred in easier conditions. Humphries, coming in at 61 for five, made a lucky, bustling and useful 100. He and Neale added 63 in an hour, a partnership which gave Gloucestershire some hope.

Of the Glamorgan bowlers the most dangerous of course, was from the Caribbean. Davis, the St Vincentian who, at times during the winter, was one of the West Indian hit squad. His omission from their side to tour England this summer was something of a surprise. He was a fearsome proposition yesterday, owing not least to his height.

If further evidence is needed on the pitch, in Glamorgan's second innings Warner and Elcock both achieved the best figures of their careers. Elcock, too, is a West Indian. Warner, though of West Indian origin, was in fact born in Birmingham. With Davis soon sinking again, in more ways than one, when Glamorgan, needing 23 to win, went in for the last nine overs of the day, 13 wickets and a century were taken. Oh my Perks and my Mercer long ago!

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 309 for 8 dec (P Henderson 50; Bowling: Elcock 13-3-55-1; Warner 15-3-54-2; Patel 20-9-57-2)

1 A Hopkins 10-0-0-0
2 A Jones 10-0-0-0
3 R C O'Connell 10-0-0-0
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Worcestershire: First Innings

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Worcestershire: Seventh Innings

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Worcestershire: Eighth Innings

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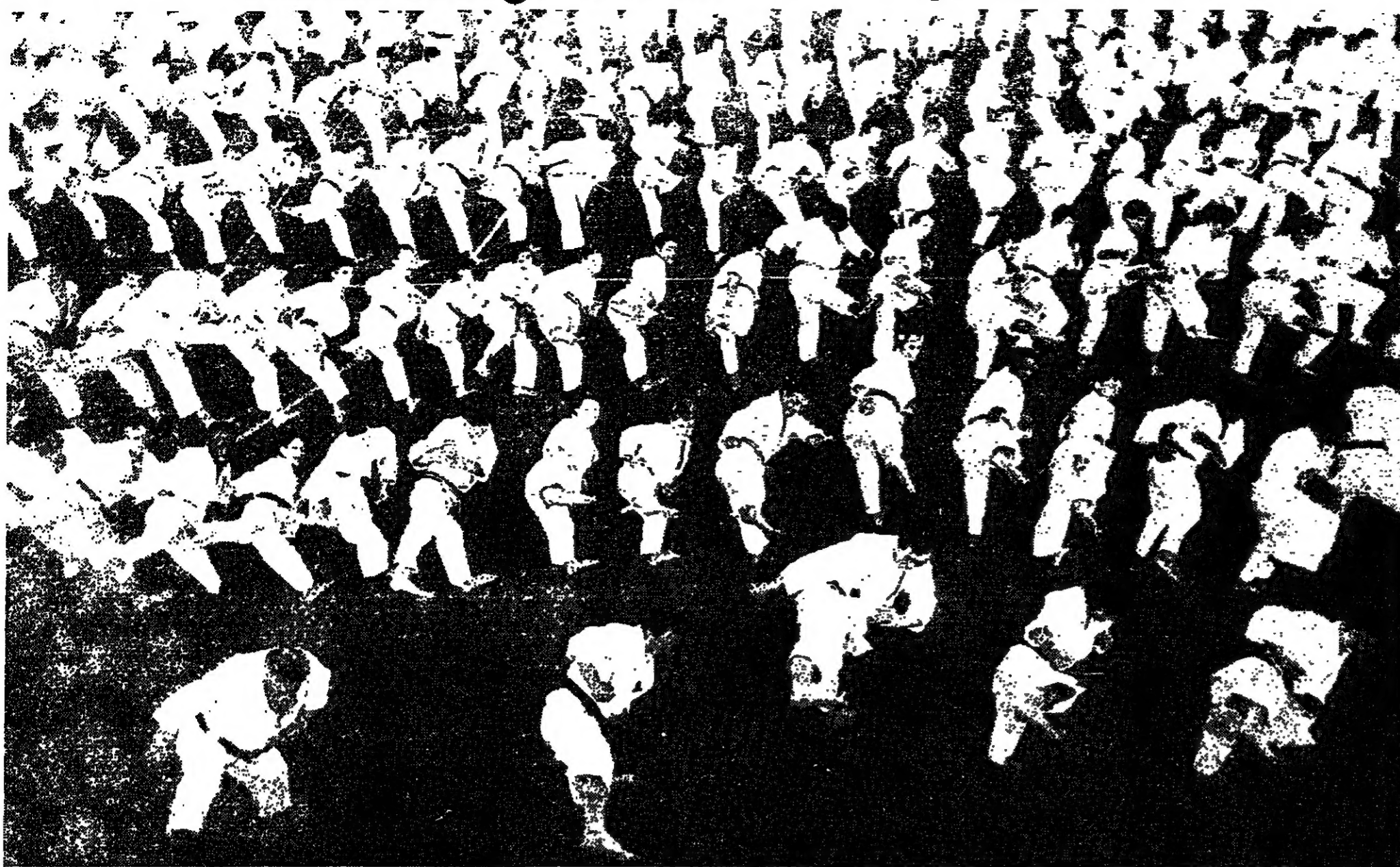
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Karate aces get a kick out of Crystal Palace



Some of the world's most revered karate instructors lead more than 300 students at the European Special Summer Course at Crystal Palace, London, which goes on until next Friday. Below centre, Sensei Kase, 8th Dan, considered the premier karate instructor in the world, and colleagues demonstrate their art. Photographs Norman Lomax.

Coal convoy stepped up

Continued from page 1
changing my position at the moment."

However, Mr Ned Smith, the coal board's director-general of industrial relations, has been seeking to arrange talks with the union on a possible compromise involving phasing of the board's plans to shut 20 pits and a shift back to area-level talks on the scale of redundancies. He has made two calls to the union offices, but no meeting has been arranged.

Meanwhile, 121 pits remain strikebound last night as the strike ended its eighth week. Forty-nine were producing coal, although not all at normal levels.

The board has stopped

issuing figures for the overall number of men on strike.

● The Prime Minister exploited yesterday Labour's embarrassment over the miners' attempted blockade of Ravenscroft by dubbing "Mr Kinnock, party leader, the strikers' friend" (Our Political Correspondent writes).

She told the Commons that the steel industry was a very good customer for coal. "One would think that an industry which wants a good future would be careful to keep its customers."

"Strikes lose jobs sometimes in the industry in which the strike occurs and sometimes in other industries as well."



THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen visits the 1st Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Warminster, Wilts, 11.
Princess Anne presents the Youth Caring Awards at Pebble Mill, Birmingham, 12.15; and later, as Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, attends a Livery Dinner at the Mansion House, London, 6.35.
Queen Elizabeth The Queen

Mother attends the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the De Havilland Aircraft Museum Trust, and opens the new hangar at Salisbury Hall, Hatfield, 3.45.
Princess Alexandra opens The Friends Dental Unit for handicapped people at Barnfield House, Chichester, West Sussex.
Rough, the West Sussex village of CARE for mentally handicapped people, 3.20; and then, visits Seaford College, Petworth, West Sussex, on the occasion of the

Centenary celebrations of the college, 4.30.
New Exhibitions
Art of the Beatles exhibition: Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool 3; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Sept 30).
Exhibitions in progress
Detecting Fantasy and Imagination in Art: The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Oxford Rd, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, closed Sun (until May 7).
Ten new paintings by Tess Jarry: Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Oxford Rd, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, closed Sun (until June 2).
Fibre Art Exhibition: Gawthorpe Hall, Farnham, Nr Basingstoke; Tues to Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 3).
Beate Paraphernalia: Beate City, Seel St, Liverpool, Mon to Sun, 10.30 to 8.30.

Food prices

Home produced lamb prices are up this week, some cuts by as much as 8p a pound. Whole leg ranges from £1.64-£2.44, the average price about £2.03 a pound. Loin chops range from £1.76-£2.84 and whole shoulder 98p-£1.65 a pound, best end £1.64-£2.75. New Zealand lamb shows a slight increase with whole legs from £1.26-£1.50 and whole shoulder at £1.49-£1.50.

Beef topside and silverside ranges from £1.98-£2.30, bone in forefoot £1.28-£1.66 and fillet steak from £3.50-£4.50 a pound.
There are few changes in pork prices with whole leg from 88p-£1.36, boneless shoulder 98p-£1.35 a pound, and loin chops £1.25-£1.46 a pound. Some good buys are Sainsbury's topside, top rump and silverside at £1.94 a pound; Tesco boneless brisket £1.52, and New Zealand shoulder of lamb at 68p; Fine Fare leg of pork (bone-in) 98p; Dewhurst braising steak at £1.59 a pound. Bejam have peeled prawns for £2.89 a pound and 5lb packs of sweetcorn for £2.49.

The British asparagus season started this week and the warm sunny weather in April gave the crop an enormous boost. Mr Michael Paske, secretary of the British Asparagus Growers' Association, says: "The British April on record looks like producing the best tasting British asparagus on record."
Producers hope to harvest more than 32 million spears from the 1,350 acres now under asparagus. Prices range from 80p to £1 for spruce below 8mm in thickness, to jumbo (20mm) at £2 to £2.20 a pound.

Black barlinka grapes are a good buy this week, about 70p a pound. Home grown natural rhubarb is a little cheaper at 20-30p a pound.

Bond winner

The winning number of this month's £250,000 premium bond prize is 13XT 330809. The winner lives in Mid Glamorgan.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.58	1.50
Austria Sch	28.05	26.45
Belgium Fr	81.75	77.75
Canada \$	1.86	1.79
Denmark Kr	14.45	13.75
Finland Mk	8.38	7.98
France Fr	12.14	11.54
Germany DM	3.93	3.75
Greece Dr	156.00	146.00
Hongkong \$	11.35	10.75
Italy Lira	2425.00	2325.00
Japan Yen	331.00	315.00
Netherlands Gld	4.46	4.24
Norway Kr	11.30	10.70
Portugal Esc	199.00	189.00
South Africa Rd	2.13	1.97
Spain Pta	217.00	206.00
Sweden Kr	11.70	11.10
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA \$	1.44	1.39
Yugoslavia Dnr	202.00	183.00
Ireland	1.29	1.22

Prices for small denominated banknotes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Government rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 345.1.

London: The FT Index closed up 3.4 at 922.8.

Roads

Midlands: A49: Junction A456 at Woolfeaton, single line traffic. A34: Roadworks at Tidmington, south of Shipston.
North: A180: Contraflow between Barrenthorpe and Kettering, and Harborough, Brigg to Uxbridge section, Humberside. A167: Closed at Ferryhill, Merrington Lane (B6287). M6: Lanes closed between junctions 20 and 21 at the wall Viaduct, Cheshire. A6116: Roadworks along existing carriageway of Leeds Southern Ring Road. A1: Carriageway closures over the Londisford Interchange Bridge, near Jarrold, Tyne and Wear.
Wales and West: A48/A473: Bridge: Delays at Nodion Street/Cowbridge to junction, mid Glamorgan. A4018: Delays at Whitecliff, Bristol. A390: Speed limit at Lostwithiel to Truro Rd at Penryn Hill, St Blazey.
South: Edinburgh: Canaan Road closed between Cranston Street and New Street to westbound traffic, diversion. A737: Delays at Kirkcaldy, sewer laying at Ferryhill, E of Fulbar Rd, Paisley, outside lanes closed. A701: Sewer renewal at Churchgate Moffat, single lane traffic with lights.

Information supplied by the AA.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 (1) Greystoke
2 (2) Terms of Endearment
3 (3) Yentl
4 (4) Silkwood
5 (5) Footloose
6 (6) The Untouchables
7 (7) The Dresser
8 (8) Educating Rita
9 (9) High Road To China
10 (10) Trading Places

The top films in the provinces:
1 Yentl
2 Lady and the Tramp
3 Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes
4 Terms of Endearment
5 Educating Rita
Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

1 Superman III
2 Making Michael Jackson's Thriller
3 Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes
4 Terms of Endearment
5 Educating Rita
Supplied by Video Business

The papers

The Daily Mirror says "What possible gain can there be for the miners to force permanent shutdown of the Ravenscroft steel works? Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet refused to let it happen because it was afraid of the political consequences. But now the miners are in danger of doing to the steelworkers what the Government would not allow Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of the coal board, to do." The paper adds: "They will lose other union support if they destroy Ravenscroft. Certainly, the Labour Party couldn't back them. Mr Scargill's one hope of winning this strike was to have a united union striking a national battle."

Weather forecast

A slack pressure field covers the UK with shallow areas of low pressure to the SW and SE of Britain.

6am to midnight

London, Con N; Can S; Eng, Mid: Sunny intervals and scattered showers, wind variable light, max temp 15C (59F).
SE, E, NE Eng, E Ang: Rather cloudy, sunny intervals developing, wind NE light, max temp 14C (57F).
Channel Islands, SW Eng, S Wales: Rather cloudy, a little rain in places at first, wind SE light to moderate, max temp 15C (59F).
N Wales, NW Eng, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Mild variable light, max temp 16C (61F).
Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, some sunny intervals, wind variable light, max temp 13C (55F).
Outlook tomorrow and Sunday: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, most frequent in the S, more cloud and drizzle in N Scotland later.

SEA PASSAGES: S, North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind NE light or moderate, showers, visibility moderate with fog patches, sea smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind light variable or E, mainly fair, visibility moderate, sea smooth.

Sun rises: 5.27 am
Sun sets: 8.29 pm
Moon rises: 7.12 am
Moon sets: 2.35 pm
First Quarter: May 8, tomorrow

Lighting-up time

London 5.55 pm to 4.45 am
Bristol 5.50 pm to 5.05 am
Edinburgh 5.20 pm to 4.50 am
Manchester 5.15 pm to 4.50 am
Penzance 5.10 pm to 5.21 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun.
Belfast 18.51
Birmingham 9.48
Bristol 12.54
Cardiff 11.52
Edinburgh 11.52
Glasgow 11.52
Liverpool 11.52
Manchester 11.52
Newcastle 11.52
Nottingham 11.52
Penzance 11.52
Sheffield 11.52
Southampton 11.52
Stoke-on-Trent 11.52
Sunderland 11.52
Tyneside 11.52
Wolverhampton 11.52
Wrexham 11.52

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Glasgow 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Fife Ness, 7C (45F); highest night temp: Weymouth, 44C; highest sunrise: Carlisle, 12.2hr.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 9pm, 13C (55F); min 9pm to 6am, 8C (46F); humidity 60, 60 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil; 6pm to 24hr, nil. Bar, mean sea level: 6pm, 1,006.1 millibars, steady. Wind: 6pm to 24hr, 1-12 mph, variable.

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Shylock outrage forces changes

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company has hurriedly amended the programme for its controversial production of *The Merchant of Venice* at Stratford after complaints that the original was antisemitic.
Senior RSC staff drafted several additional remarks, mentioning the aftermath of the Second World War Holocaust and saying that contemporary comments about Jews in the programme reflected "the ignorance, prejudice and cruelty of the times".
Although the company frequently issues errata slips for its programmes, it is highly unusual for it to go to the trouble and expense of producing editorial matter to inserted later. An RSC spokesman said that the additional material would probably be incorporated into the programme when it is reprinted.

The Stratford production was criticised in an article in *The Times* by Mr William Frankel, who said that Mr Ian McDiarmid's performance as Shylock had "the potential for inciting or reinforcing racial or religious prejudice". Mr McDiarmid replied that he did not believe the play was antisemitic and added that it was impertinent to imply that he had little regard for the Jewish faith or wished in any way to minimize the effect of the atrocities of the Holocaust.

The RSC said that it had received only letters of support after the publication of Mr Frankel's article, and a few telephone calls from people expressing criticism. Nevertheless, it decided to revise the programmes, under the supervision of Sir Kenneth Coote, the chairman of its council of governors.

One of those understood to have complained is Mr Cyril Stein, head of *Landmark* which has sponsored RSC productions in the past.

The original programme consisted mainly of contemporary accounts of attitudes towards Jews in Elizabethan England. Jews had been banned from the country for 300 years when Shakespeare wrote the play in 1596. Mr Frankel said that the programme contained five infamous anti-Jewish writings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Italy halts shipment of statue to US

From Peter Nichols
Rome

The Italian Government, in a last-minute move, yesterday blocked shipment of a Michelangelo masterpiece to the United States.
The Sculpture, "Christ bearing the Cross", was due to stand in the Vatican pavilion at the 1984 World's Fair. It was rumoured that the Pope had asked the Italian authorities to arrange for the packing and transport by air to New Orleans of the famous work, which had never before been moved from its pedestal by the altar of the church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva since it was placed there in 1521.

The exact sequence of events is shrouded in secrecy. The Vatican is said to have made its request through Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, who passed it on to Signor Mino Gullotti, Minister for the Cultural Heritage, who made arrangements without informing Signor Dante Bernini, superintendent of Rome's art treasures. This touch of discreet stealth marked the whole operation.

The packers arrived on May Day, a public holiday, "following the style" as *La Repubblica* newspaper put it, "of thieves who go to rob apartments".

Signor Bernini went to the church when he heard what was afoot. The packing was, in his view, inadequate.

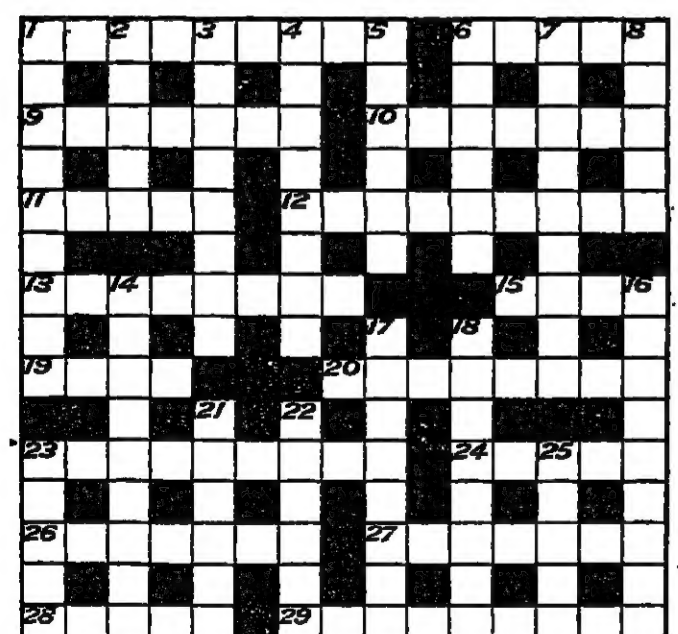
Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, was apparently one of the last to know, but the first to react with decision. He peremptorily ordered a halt to the project while "further studies" were made.

Was he angry? Well, said one of his closer associates, the Prime Minister "showed remarkable self-control". Will the statue be sent to the United States after the period of further study? It is hardly likely.

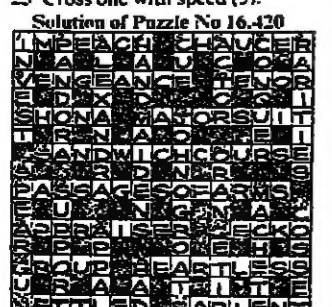
What almost made Signor Craxi lose his self-control is that the incident comes at a delicate moment on relations between church and state. The two have just signed a new concordat, which has still to be debated in Parliament.

And now the semi-secret crating of the Michelangelo is being presented by a suggestion of the press as presumption by the Vatican and another failure by the Italian authorities to show proper respect for their immense cultural heritage.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,421



- ACROSS
- 1 It can be made up into a suit, though it's a job (9).
 - 2 A good deal makes sense (5).
 - 3 Willing to write a half-term exam in advance (8).
 - 4 The usual half-term (7).
 - 5 Don't take time off (5).
 - 6 A bull maybe is recumbent outside - result of these tranquilizers? (9).
 - 7 Principal source of this concern (8).
 - 8 To agitate could mean prison! (4).
 - 9 Everything turned on the egg-head woman (4).
 - 10 Plant about a quarter before the fall to get early blossom (8).
 - 11 "A heart, that wants - of reason" (Hawthorne) (9).
 - 12 A lack of nothing holds a few, being quite unaffected (5).
 - 13 Press job (7).
 - 14 Bill's entering the wood bearing food (7).
 - 15 A course for the egg-producer (3).
 - 16 One finishing in the trial is the most vulnerable (9).
- DOWN
- 1 What's going round the South-east about a report, it appears (6).
 - 2 Set up thus in play or opera (5).
 - 3 Area must appear replanned by non-professional people (8).
 - 4 Thought to have some inclination for a perfectionist (8).
 - 5 Almost never but not always before time (6).
 - 6 Understand a proverb can divert youngsters (6).
 - 7 Gold tatra made by an old fighting man (9).
 - 8 Seen in the enchantress's hair (5).
 - 9 Conservative holding all the way? It's hardly credible (4,5).
 - 10 Stand for an army corps here (9).
 - 11 Bun well-cooked taken as nourishment - there's nothing better (8).
 - 12 Put on airs about French article on English ballet (4,4).
 - 13 His merchandise is measured by the foot (6).
 - 14 Quick-witted statesman (6).
 - 15 Baboon's army training? (5).
 - 16 Cross one with speed (5).



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

May 1984